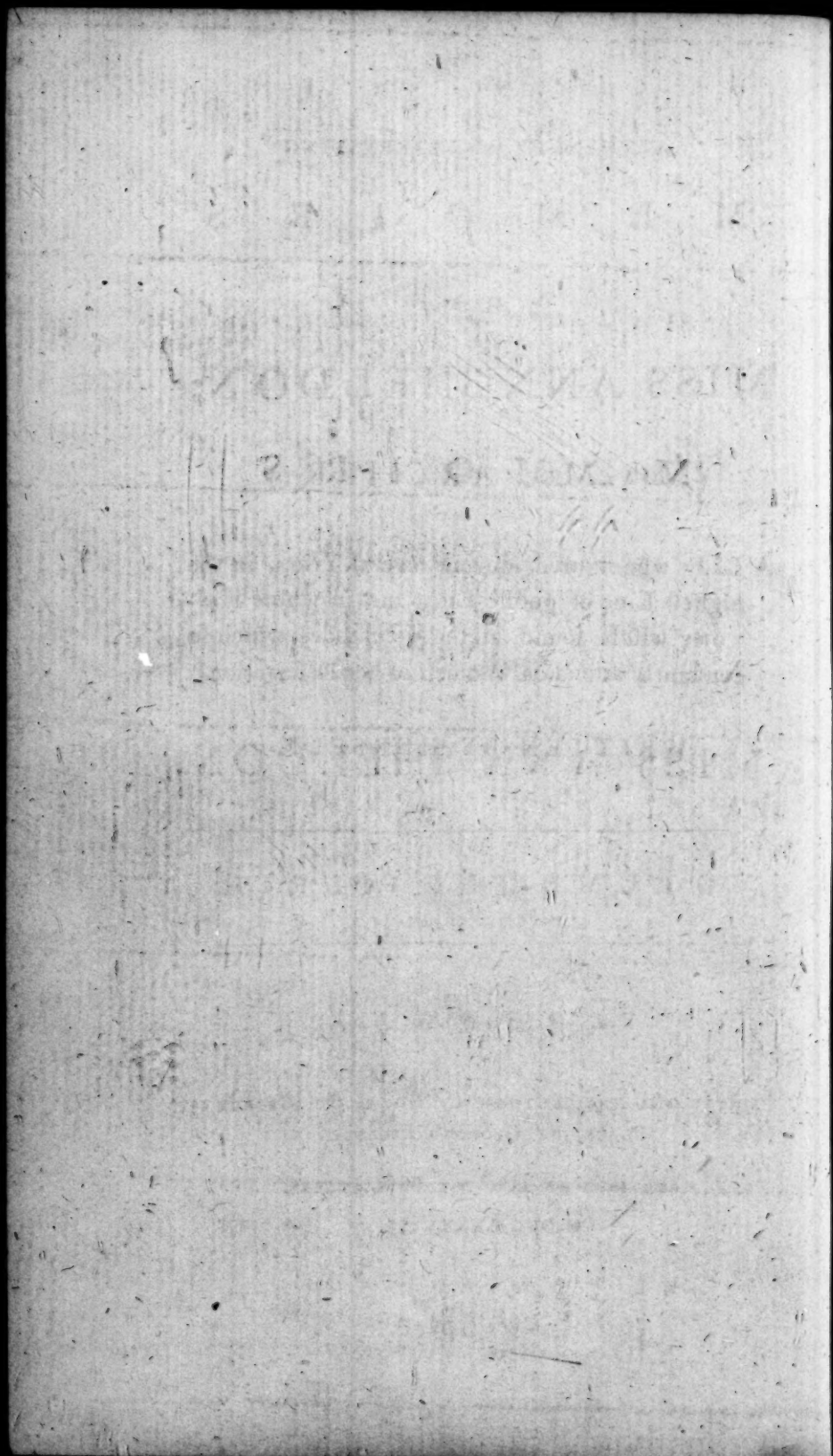


M E M O I R S

• •

MISS ANN SHELDON.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.



AUTHENTIC AND INTERESTING
M E M O I R S
O F
MISS ANN SHELTON;

(NOW MRS. ARCHER:)

A Lady who figured, during several Years, in the highest Line of public Life, and in whose History will be found, all the Vicissitudes, which so constantly attend on Women of her Description.

WRITTEN BY HERSELF.

VOLUME THE FOURTH.

L O N D O N:

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M,DCC,LXXXVIII.

AMERICAN AND ENGLISH

M. E. M. O. I. R. S.

M. E. M. O. I. R. S.

MISS ANN SHELDON

A NEW MISS ARCHER

A lady who has been married twenty years in the
highest place of public life and in which the
story will be found of the 7 children which she
consequently stands on the point of her position.

WRITTEN BY HERSELF

TO BE HAD OF THE FOURTH

THE NEW YORK AND LONDON
PUBLISHED BY THE NEW YORK
AND LONDON AND NEW YORK
AND LONDON AND NEW YORK

M E M O I R S

ANN SHELTON, &c.

C H A P. XLIX.

Enter upon a new Scene of Life—Take the care of two young Ladies, Miss Fortescue and Miss Montague, belonging to Mrs. Wood—A variety of Anecdotes concerning them—Rescue them from the abominable Persecutions of that infamous Woman.

THE last extraordinary affray produced some good effect on my landlord, who now offered to yield up my engagement of his lodgings

for the remainder of the term, if I would quit them;—a proposal on his part, which was very readily received on mine; and I went to Mrs. *Wood*, a mantua-maker in *Swallow-street*, one of the convenient tribe, to inform her of my situation, and to ask her advice:—when she informed me, that she had an house in *Poland-street*, in the intriguing line, with two very elegant women in it, and proposed my undertaking its direction, on terms very advantageous to myself. In short, I was to have my board, lodging, and the privilege of seeing my own friends, for the mere trouble of managing the house, and receiving the profits of it for the benefit of Mrs. *Wood*.

The

The young ladies, who were boarders in the house, were, a Miss *Forrescue* and a Miss *Montague*, to whom I made myself as agreeable as possible, by paying them every attention when they were at home, and accompanying them to every place of public diversion to which they expressed a desire to go.

At this time Doctor *Brocklesby* became violently enamoured of me, and gave me plenty of money. In short, I, and the girls between us, got money so fast, that we were determined to set up a carriage, which we accordingly did, and made no inconsiderable figure in the meretricious world; while I generally had from five to ten guineas ready to pay every morning to Mr. *Wood*, a stupid

pid penurious old fellow, who was Mrs. *Wood*'s husband, and never failed to come to receive his daily profits; when in return, the old rascally curmudgeon used to bring us a miserable kind of salt fish, and little better than offal meat, by way of provisions for our convent. I was, however, too good a guardian mother to suffer myself or my flock to be so ill fed; for the cook had orders to dispose of Mr. *Wood*'s dainties as she thought proper, and to go in search of the best that were to be found in the shops of the neighbouring butchers, fishmongers, and poulterers.

Thus we proceeded, flaunting about the town, and getting rich for the hour, when Mrs. *Wood* began to think

think she had a right to some deductions on my profits, as well as those of the young ladies; but that article was neither in my agreement, nor by any means suited to my inclination. In short, we began rather to be dissatisfied with each other.—Words at length ensued, and the amiable Mrs. Wood, who had been continually forcing cloaths upon the young women, and had, of course, got them into her debt, especially Miss Fortescue, threatened to arrest her, if I did not submit to the terms she proposed.

My readers need not, I fear, be informed, that my spirit was not of a texture to brook this kind of behaviour; and I had accordingly formed a little plan to quit the mansion, and

take the covey with me. But the good Mrs. *Wood*, suspecting the design, came to the house, attended by a couple of sheriff's officers, to put her threats in execution against poor Miss *Fortescue*. But I was an experienced General in this kind of attack, and knew how to arrange every thing for an able defence. The moment, therefore, I saw the enemy at the gate, I desired Miss *Fortescue* to retire to her chamber, lock herself in, and open the door to no one. Having thus put her in a place, which was *Bum-bailiff* proof, I took the inventory of the goods, which the house contained, in my hand, and opened the door without hesitation.

On their entrance, one of the ruffians attempted to rush up the staircase,

case, when an active and vehement application of my right hand to the skirt of his coat, not only brought him down the steps he had gained, with some expedition, but laid him at his length in the passage. I then informed Mrs. *Wood* and her party, that I was in possession of the house, and was answerable for whatever it contained according to the inventory I then held in my hand: that I supposed they were come to rob me, and that if they did not immediately retire, I would soon let the neighbourhood know my situation, and scream forth for succour and protection from such an outrage.

The sheriff's officers began to be doubtful as to the errand, and Mrs. *Wood*, who was not only so amazed at

at my extraordinary proceedings in her own house, as to be deprived of all power of reply, but fearing at the same time, if any disturbance took place, that the frequent menaces of the neighbours to indite her would be at length put in execution, she thought proper to bid her attendants retire; when I told her, in the presence of a gentleman of the law, whom I had sent for, and who was now arrived, that if she would come within an hour, and be unaccompanied with the miscreants whom she had in waiting, that I would look over the inventory with her, and give her up the keys of the house. After some remonstrances, as well as threats against poor Miss *Fortescue*, which she found had no effect on my resolution, the lady condescended to yield to my proposal, and agreed to call
the

the next morning, in order to put it in execution.

In the mean time I was not idle—lodgings were that very evening procured for the ladies, and all their property safely conveyed to them:—so that, the following day, when Mrs. Wood had examined the house, &c. with me and my lawyer, and had found every thing right, according to the contents of the inventory, she began to make some very serious enquiries concerning two articles which were not contained in the paper, meaning Miss *Fortescue* and Miss *Montague*; when I informed her very coolly, that the pigeons were fled, and as soon as I had delivered up the keys I then held in my hand, I should take my flight also.—She threatened,

threatened, and I laughed—so, leaving her to fret and fume as best suited her disposition, I went and joined the party I had sent before me, with whom I stayed for a few days, till I could accommodate myself with an apartment to my satisfaction.

Mrs. *Wood*, however, was indefatigable in her malice, for she contrived to have Miss *Fortescue* arrested for an enormous and unconscionable bill of ninety pounds;—and, I was equally active in frustrating her designs against that persecuted girl;—for, by a little management, a sufficient bail, of a convenient kind, was procured, and a gentleman taking her abroad with him soon afterwards, she was out of her enemy's reach; and the bail not being forth-coming

when

when they were called upon, nor to be discovered when search was made after them, Mrs. *Wood* was naturally faddled with a bill of costs—the well merited punishment of her notorious conduct.

C H A P. L.

Retire again to Lambeth with a Mr. Frederick, a Dutch Merchant—In a Frolick disoblige and lose him—His Place supplied for a short Time by Captain Beckford of the Guards—Am seized with a violent Fever, and plunged into a distressed Situation—Deserted in Consequence—Relieved by the Duke of Leeds and Duke of Grafton—Again reconciled to Mr. Walsingham.

I Now thought proper to quit town once more, and made another retreat to *Lambeth*, where I took an apartment at the house of a *Mrs. Walden*.—Here I made an acquaintance, and a very profitable one, with a *Mr. Frederick, a Dutch Merchant*.

This

This gentleman was exceedingly fond of me, and gave me all those proofs of regard which were most satisfactory, for he supplied me with plenty of money, and indulged my vanity in all the elegance of personal decoration. I lived with this worthy gentleman for some time, and might, according to all appearance, have continued with him while he lived, but my wayward fortune,—or rather my wayward folly, which was continually at war with my fortune, put an end at once to this very advantageous connection.

Mr. *Frederick* was a man who possessed a thousand good qualities, but was not without the peculiarities of his country and education: Among the rest, he was very particular as to
his

his dress, and extremely attentive to that part of it which decorated his head; and such a fool was I, as in one of my mad-cap fits, when we were drinking tea at a public place, and in company with several other persons, to take off his wig and throw it, in all the pride of bag and buckle, into a tub of water. This piece of vivacity cost me dear—for so extremely offended was he with me on the occasion, that he returned immediately to my lodgings, took away the cloaths he had there, and I saw him no more.

This was a circumstance of no small mortification to me; but the mischief was done, and my only remedy was, to forget my own folly, by availing myself of the folly of
some

some other person; and such an one I soon found in Captain *Beckford*, of the *Horse Guards*, who was a very amiable pleasing man, but not so generous as to attach me to him; and whose visits, which were very constant for some little time, were, upon the whole, disadvantageous to me, by preventing the attentions of others of superior generosity to himself.

Such gallants as this gentleman were by no means calculated to encrease my treasury, and a visitor now made its appearance which most effectually emptied it;—this was no less than a violent fever, which I caught at a dance, and brought on all the expence of nurses, doctors, and medicines.—Indeed, so heavy were my disburse-

disbursements, and so slow my recovery, that I was obliged to apply to best part of my cloaths to supply my wants.—Thus reduced, and feeble, every thing going out, and nothing coming in, my distresses threatened to press very hard upon me, when I took courage to apply to that excellent nobleman the *Duke of Leeds*, merely on the idea of his benevolent character, when the event justified my confidence in his Grace's goodnefs, by being immediately favoured with a present of ten guineas. Having had some acquaintance with *Nancy Parsons*, I made a similar application to the *Duke of Grafton*, and received a similar return.—These were great reliefs to me in my unhappy situation, and

tended more than pillor potion to hasten my recovery.

The first object of my returning health was to produce, if possible, a return of my prosperity, and I took an early opportunity to call upon my friend Miss *Hudson* to give me her assistance.—This she readily promised, and undertook, without delay, to introduce me to a Captain *Warmfley*, of *Burgoyne's Dragoons*, who was represented as a gentleman that possessed the capacity of being generous, as well as the *disposition* to generosity. We accordingly took a post-chaise, and went directly to *Croydon*, where the troop was quartered.—Here I was presented to Captain *Warmfley*, who received me with great politeness, and the next day,
with

with a party of his friends, accompanied us to town.—To Mrs. *Thornton's*, in *Covent Garden*, our heroes conducted us, and not only entertained us with elegance, but rewarded us amply.

The next morning a woman came with a request to speak to me in private; and on my giving her an audience, she informed me that a gentleman at her house, which was at the corner of *Tavistock-court*, wished very much to speak to me. I immediately called Mrs. *Thornton* aside, to express my apprehensions, that this message was nothing less than some *body-trap* which was set for me; but she was of a different opinion, and advised me by all means to go, assuring me at the same time, that, if
it

it should prove as I suspected, she was there ready to bail me.—Thus encouraged, I proceeded to the house, and when I entered the room, who should I perceive this gentleman to be, but Mr. *Walsingham*.

I was agreeably disappointed at meeting with him, when I really expected a gentleman of a very different character; and though I naturally looked for a pretty severe lecture, on account of my late conduct, I cannot but acknowledge, that my heart, which, in all its vagaries, was very partial to him, rejoiced now at the sight of him, with all the rights he possessed to reproach me:—nor did he fail of his accustomed admonitions—for he set his back against the door to prevent any possibility of my

my escape—" And here," said he,
" I have found you at last, in this
" miserable scene of every thing that
" is ruinous and detestable, and, as
" I perceive, in the high road to de-
" struction—Here do I see you, paint-
" ed like a jezebel, and battered like
" a post-horse, without a real friend
" in the world but myself—and do-
" ing every thing you can to put it
" out of my power to exercise any
" friendship towards you.—How-
" ever," continued he, " I shall in-
" sist on settling you once more, and
" I will not suffer you to leave this
" room till you have promised me,
" in the most solemn manner, to
" quit these infamous haunts, and
" submit yourself again to my di-
" rection."

I pro-

I promised him all obedience without hesitation, and, at the time, with real sincerity. I then told him of my abode at *Lambeth*; but could not resist the suggestion of my evil genius in deceiving him, on his enquiries, concerning the state of my debts, by informing him of just one third of their amount. “Well,” said he, “I will pay what you owe, “and settle you again in a decent “and comfortable way;”—so giving me a note of twenty pounds, he told me to pay that away as far as it would go, and that he would bring me the rest at night, though it would probably be at a late hour, as it was expected there would be a very long day in the House of Commons, where he was then going. He now took his leave, with many expres-

sions of concern for my welfare, and I returned home in high spirits, on reflecting at my unexpected, and as I may with great truth add, unmerited good fortune, in being restored to his affection.

In the evening I told my servant to leave one of the shutters of the window open, and that when she heard any one at the door to look out, and if it was a tall gentleman, to let him in without saying a single word, and conduct him to my bed-chamber. I waited till about eleven o'clock, and then went to bed, where I had not been above half an hour before there was a rap at the door; and the maid, seeing it was a tall gentleman, answered him, that her lady was at home, and conducted

ducted him without ceremony to my room:—on his entering it he undrew the curtains, and, after telling me that he had seen me at the window a few days before, he was come to know if I was engaged; and as he saw that I was alone, he should certainly take the liberty of remaining there all night. By this time I was recovered from my surprise, and assured him it was a liberty I should by no means allow; and, throwing my bed-gown hastily over me, I jumped out of bed, and, seizing one of my shoes, I began beating my unexpected visitor in a very unexpected manner over the head with it, so that he thought a retreat was the wisest measure, and he made his with all the expedition in his power. I had

scarce recovered from this rencontre, when Mr. *Walsingham* himself arrived, to laugh with me at the event of the evening.

CHAP.

CHAP. XLIX.

Mr. Walsingham places me in a private House in Walcot-place Lambeth, to Board and Lodge with the Family, representing himself as a Merchant, and me as his Wife.—Live more comfortably than I had done for many Years. Our real Situation discovered, and turned out of the House.—Fresh Difficulties arise—Am pursued by the Sheriffs Officers, and to escape from them, leap out of a Two Pair of Stairs Window, by which I receive a Hurt in my leg, that confines me for Nine Weeks.

THE next morning Mr. Walsingham began to converse about some plan of settling me in a more decent and comfortable manner than I had hitherto been, and for this purpose he wished to find out an honest family, where I might board and

lodge, and that he would represent himself as a merchant in the city, and pass for my husband. This scheme being agreed on, I went in search of a suitable situation, and at length found out a Mr. *Leponear's*, in *Walcot Place, Lambeth*, where I agreed for board and lodging at two guineas a week. The next day Mr. *Walsingham* took his cockade out of his hat and accompanied me in a coach to the place, where he arranged the whole of the business; and passing himself off for a merchant, with no common address, he recommended his dearly beloved wife, whenever his business obliged him to be absent, to the friendly care of Mr. and Mrs. *Leponear*.

I now

I now removed to my new situation, was at length placed in a modest house, and enjoyed the society of modest people.—But my days of honourable character were not destined to last;—for my retreat was soon discovered by several ladies of my acquaintance, who used to come in coach-fulls to see me, while Captain *Walmsley* was daily persecuting me with messages or letters. But this was not all,—for while I was merely suspected of gaiety, there did not seem to have been any uneasiness; but some one in the employ of the Admiralty, told Mrs. *Leponear's* servant my mercantile rib was no husband of mine;—and that instead of being in trade he was a Captain in the navy; and no less a person than the Honourable *Boyle Walsingham*.

This interesting piece of intelligence soon found its way from the maid to the mistress, who immediately became extremely disagreeable on the occasion, and whose character was tremblingly alive at the disgrace of having a kept woman under the same roof. In short, she gave herself so many airs, and was so continually exercising her impertinencies on my subject, that I paid her for the unexpired part of my term, and removed to a Mr. *Shannon's*, at the very next door.

Mrs. *Leponear* was now rid of her disgraceful companion, but she began to find she was also rid of two guineas a week, and she felt this latter circumstance the more, as my money had been given up to her by Mr. *Leponear* for

for her own peculiar use. This experience, and the reflections consequent upon it, soon changed the lady's rigid scruples into a sense of her folly—a repentance for having committed it, and the most sincere desire to have me again. Such a disposition was soon communicated to me, and as the society of such a woman was an *agrément* which I had not at Mr. Shannon's, I was very willing to renew our acquaintance, which soon ended in my retaking possession of my former apartment.

The falling out of friends is the strengthening of friendship, — and Mrs. Leponear now unfolded her real dispositions and character to me; nor could it but be flattering to me, to find that such an elegant woman as

herself was adorned with many of my agreeable accomplishments. She loved dress and pleasure as well as myself, so that we were never separate, and not often at home, but engaged in one continual round of public amusements.

Mr. *Leponear* was naturally an easy, good-humoured, indulgent character, but our raking lives and late hours at length got the better of his patience, and if we did not return home before twelve o'clock we always found the door shut against us. — This, however, was no very great obstacle, as we used to descend into the area, and get through the kitchen window. The good man then locked the iron gate, but that was over-leaped, for we always contrived, with

with the assistance of the coachman, to get over the rails ; so that, at last, this persecuted poor man, finding there were no possible means of keeping his wife within doors or without, applied to Mr. *Walsingham* to remove me, or he must otherwise remove himself ; but however violent he might be for the moment, no resolutions of that kind were taken ; on the contrary, the very next day, he was so obliging as to step forward in my behalf, and on an occasion when the most promising friends are frequently found to give way.

Mrs. *Leponear* and myself had formed a plan to go to *Vauxhall*, and we were on the road to town to purchase some little millinery for that purpose ; when Mr. *Spencer*, a very

civil sheriff's officer, whom I had the honour of knowing, and who was literally well acquainted with me, stopped the coach, and getting into it, informed me, that he had a writ against me at the suit of my good friend Mrs. *Thornton*, so well known under the *Piazza* of *Covent Garden*, for the payment of poundage, or five shillings in the pound for money got in her house.

My friend, Mrs. *Leponear*, who had been unused to this kind of business, fainted away in the carriage, and it was some time before she recovered, when I encouraged her, by my antics, to bear that misfortune for me which I knew so well how to bear for myself. After a little while she began to support herself tolerably well,

well, and very kindly accompanied me to the house of the officer.

Here I found that Mrs. *Thornton's* demand, which was only five pounds, and was claimed on the score of that infamous extortion which such execrable procureesses as herself practice on the unhappy creatures whom misfortune, for their greater punishment, throws into such diabolical clutches,—was followed by a variety of other suits, amounting in all to near an hundred pounds ;—but I was now determined to avail myself of my legal character as a married woman, and set the whole band of my prosecutors at defiance.

Mrs. *Leponear* behaved in a most friendly manner on this occasion, for
she

she not only staid with me at the officer's house till the bail was procured, but herself procured her husband to be the bail. As the arrest was made on the Saturday afternoon I was obliged to stay till Monday morning before the business could be settled; but I was then set at liberty, to the no small disappointment of Mother *Thornton*, who had conjured up this demand, and persuaded others to join in persecuting me, for no other reason but because I did not frequent her house, and bring grist to her mill.—But as she lived, an infamous life, she died a miserable death, though too soon for the approaching vengeance of those laws which she had so long and so shamefully violated.

But

But the spirit of persecution was now in full chase of me, for I had not been returned home an hour before my milliner brought me some articles which I had ordered, and while I was preparing to pay her the bill, a couple of sheriff's officers were at the door in chairmens great coats, with pretended letters for me, in order to gain admittance to arrest me for it; nay, at the very moment that I had the money in my hand for the purpose, an alarm was given me from below, for the fellows had got into the house by the area door, and though the milliner herself attempted to hold me, I got loose, ran up stairs, and locked myself in a back room that overlooked the garden. When the rascals had got to the first floor, I overheard the milliner in-

forming them that I was in the second ; but, being determined not to be taken this time, and in such a malicious manner, I threw up the window, and leaped boldly into the garden. I instantly found one of my legs so extremely hurt, that I could not put it to the ground ; but nevertheless, such was my resolution, that I contrived, I know not how, to get over the wall into the adjoining garden, and crawled into the house, where I had scarce time to tell my story, when I fainted in such a manner as to make the good people apprehend that my last fit was passed.

The pursuers now finding that their prey had escaped them, went their way, and the wretch of a milliner, after having received a very
severe

severe chastisement, which she had reason to remember for some time, was suffered to take her departure.

When the coast was clear I was carried home, and a surgeon immediately sent for.—My leg was now swelled to a monstrous size, and it was some days before it could be so reduced as to determine what was the injury, when it turned out to be nothing less than a fracture. Mr. *Walsingham* was sent to on the occasion, and behaved to me with the most tender regard during the whole of my illness, which was a very long one, for it was nine weeks before I could cross my chamber.

During my confinement Captain *Walmsley* was continually sending to
see

see me, but Mrs. *Leponear* very prudently insisted that no one should come near me, at this period, but Mr. *Walsingham*.—At length, however, the use of my legs was restored to me, and, with the power of gadding abroad, the desire returned in all its former vivacity.

CHAP.

C H A P. L.

Receive an Invitation from Captain Walmsley to an Entertainment at Croyden, which I accept, being in the humour for a frolic. — Persuades Mrs. Leponear (the Wife of the Person with whom I lodged) to accompany me. — Both get into disgrace at Home, and Mr. Walsingham leaves me. — Return to my Old Way of Living, at Mrs. Pike's in Wells-street, where I was reduced by the arts of that Woman, to the greatest Distress. — Relieved by Sir Alexander Gilmour.

CAPTAIN Walmsley had now sent me an invitation to go down to dine with him at Croyden, and to bring Mrs. Leponear along with me, for which purpose he had ordered a chaise and four to attend us the next day.

day.—My friend Mrs. *Leponear* was as willing to engage in this scheme as myself, but we knew not how to arrange matters so as to deceive both our gentlemen. Mr. *Walsingham*, however, happening to call on me that morning, I told him that Mrs. *Leponear* and myself were going to *Enfield*, to see her father-in-law, who was extremely ill, and that we should not return that night. With this account he was perfectly satisfied, and went his way, and I immediately communicated how I had settled the matter with Mr. *Walsingham*, to Mrs. *Leponear*; “Why then,” said she, “I must tell my husband that I am going to accompany you to see your father who is very ill, so that with the assistance of both our fathers, we shall

“shall make out a very pleasant day.”

—Mr. *Leponear* made some little objection at first, but soon consented; and we, under pretence of going to take an hackney coach, went to the *Dog and Duck*, where the post chaise and four was waiting for us, and in which we went off, as fast as money could bribe the postillions, to our *Croydon* party.

But poor Mr. *Leponear*, who was used to our tricks, took it into his foolish noddle, to watch our motions, and saw us, instead of moving soberly in an hackney coach towards *Poplar*, bounce madly off in a chaise and four for God knows where. At length, he traced the chaise, and found its destination, which made him almost outrageous,—but when
I
night

night came and we did not return, he was quite so;—for our getting away from *Croyden* that night was not in the chapter of possibilities.

In the mean time we were most elegantly entertained, the whole corps of officers being there, with the band of the regiment, &c. so that we had every reason to be satisfied with the attention paid us; Mrs. *Leponear*, indeed, grew extremely uneasy towards the evening, but as there was no getting away, she slept with the maid, and in the morning we held a council of war, in what manner to reconcile our good men to us on our return home.—Many schemes were formed, but none of them seemed to promise much success, only that Captain

tain *Walmfley* promised if Mr. *Walsingham* should quit me, on account of this frolic, that I should immediately go and live with him. As for poor Mrs. *Leponear*, she was considered as a married woman, and having been guilty of nothing but an indiscretion, a scolding from her husband it was thought, was all the inconvenience she could suffer.

At length, however, we set off for town, and many a fine story we had framed to satisfy our friends at *Lambeth*, and when we came to *Kenington* we ordered the two foremost horses off, and made the other postilion ride on the bar, as if it were a returned post chaise; and in this manner we arrived at *Walcot-place*,—but the moment we drove up to the door

door we saw that our plans were all defeated; for who should be at the window, in close conversation, but Mr. *Walsingham* and Mr. *Leponear*:—it seems the latter had been to inform the other of our escape, and they soon came to that explanation which discovered all our plot; when they returned to Mr. *Leponear's* house to wait our arrival, or to make some further discoveries concerning our projects.

The moment they saw us the gentlemen separated,—and the moment we entered, we separated also; Mrs. *Leponear* went into her dressing room, and I bustled into mine. As I heard Mr. *Walsingham* walking about the drawing-room, I thought I might have my lecture and my discharge at first

as well as last, so I ventured to face him ; and on my entering the room, “ Well,” said he, “ madam, how fast your servant can lye.”—— “ what do you mean by my servant’s lying ?” answered I.—“ I mean,” “ Mrs. *impertinence*, that she told me you were only gone to take a walk as far as the turnpike, when you have been out ever since yesterday, along with a troop of horse at *Croydon*. All this, madam,” continued he, “ will never do ; and I would have you to know that I did not engage to provide you with a post chaise every day in the week.”——“ And you have no right to complain,” replied I, “ if *your* money does not pay for it : no, I suppose,” said he, “ the *troop* pays for it ; but be that as it

VOL. IV. C may,

“ may ; I placed you here to live
“ retired and comfortable, and if you
“ are determined to change your
“ plan, I shall certainly change
“ mine ;” and without adding another word, he went down stairs, and immediately left the house.

He was no sooner gone than I hurried away to Mrs. *Leponear* to learn her fate, and inform her of mine, for I did not expect Mr. *Walsingham* would return. But all was in suspense with respect to her ; and, for a long melancholy fortnight did we sit cooped up in her dressing room, without a single creature being suffered to come near us, till Mr. *Leponear* and his brother had made their enquiries at *Croydon* and elsewhere, concerning Mrs. *Leponear*'s conduct ;

when not discovering any thing that amounted to more than a mere indiscretion, he began to relent and a perfect reconciliation took place between them.

In a few days after, Mr. *Walsingham* paid me a visit, and behaved with as much good-nature and pleasantry as if nothing had happened to offend him. But the next day he sent me a letter by a gentleman, which contained a bank note of fifty pounds, and an injunction to take a lodging in town and send my address to him when I was settled, that he might call upon me, before he went into the country.

As from the manner, as well as matter of this letter, I concluded he

was on the point of quitting me, I hesitated at first whether I should submit to his desire ;—but all things considered, a removal from my present situation was necessary ; and I sent to Mrs. *Pike* in *Wells-street*, who has already been mentioned in these Memoirs, to procure me a lodging ; she happened to have, at that time a first floor at my service, and as I had no servant, I agreed to board with her. This business being arranged, I bid adieu to my friend Mrs. *Leponear*, with whom I had enjoyed so much pleasure, and played so many pranks, to return to my former course of promiscuous life.

The very day of my removal I sent to inform Mr. *Walsingham* of my new habitation, and the letter had not been

dispatched a couple of hours before he was with me ; when, with much coolness and distance of behaviour, he told me that he was going to *Windsor* for some time, and that if I wanted any thing I knew where to write.— This visit was always a perfect enigma to me ; for I wrote to him again and again, and never found that any notice was taken of my letters ; so that he might as well have withdrawn himself from me in silence, and not given me the additional mortification of desiring me to apply to him for assistance which he never intended to afford.

Considering myself therefore entirely separated from him, I addressed myself to Captain *Walmsley*, who immediately came to see me,

but instead of that ardent, enraptured lover he had so lately declared himself, I found him also metamorphosed into a careless indifferent visitor.—He brought me indeed a present of a suit of linen, which might be worth five or six guineas,—and that was all; for on my informing him of my rupture with Mr. *Walsingham*, he expressed himself extremely concerned for it on my account, and advised me to try every method in my power to recall him to me.—In short, after this interview I saw him no more.

This circumstance mortified me beyond expression, for though Captain *Walmsley* was neither young nor handsome, he was rich and generous; he had paid a considerable sum of
money

money for me during my illness, and had always professed himself so firmly attached to me, that depending as I did upon his protection, I had shewn more indifference than I ought to have done, to Mr. *Walsingham's* menace of separating himself from me. Thus was I at last left to myself, and to the chance of that prostitution which now threatened to be barren of its former advantages.

But I was not in immediate distress, for I had at least an hundred pounds in my pocket, and plenty of cloaths, when I went to Mrs. *Pike's*, and I received also some very genteel presents from Colonel *Harcourt*, Captain *Nash* and Captain *Pitcock* of the *Croydon* corps, who all condemned

Captain *Walmsley* for his perfidious behaviour to me.

At length, however, my money was exhausted—and my cloaths were exhausting;—indeed, I stayed with Mrs. *Pike* 'till I had scarce a shoe to my foot; and that good woman, in the true spirit of her trade, when she found my money all spent, my friends all aloof, and my cloaths all pawned, very naturally wanted to get me out of her house; and, as among other kindneſſes, she had persuaded me to run in debt, wherever I could get credit; she now persuaded me to shelter myself from the pursuit of my creditors, by retiring from her house, which indeed was her principal object, into the verge of the court.

I had

I had no alternative, for if I had resisted her suggestion she would have got me arrested where I was; so, with the cloaths upon my back, which was now all my wardrobe, and without a shilling in my pocket, I took possession of a lodging in *Buckingham-court, Charing-cross*.

But to render my abode a place of security, it was necessary that I should apply to the Board of *Green Cloth*; and as Sir *Alexander Gilmour*, who had been an admirer of mine, presided there, I made a personal application to him. He not only, immediately recollected his former flame, but received me with uncommon kindness, and being informed of my forlorn and distressed situation, he invited me to come and dine with

him, and in the mean time, had made up a purse for me among his friends, which put me in a state of comparative wealth; so that I returned to my lodging as happy as such an unexpected and important relief could be supposed to make me.

CHAP.

C H A P. LI.

A new turn of Fortune attends me.—An Adventure in the Park.—Take a House in Scotland-Yard.—Meet with a Gentleman of the Name of Gordon, who proves a great Friend to me, and supports me in Splendour.—First Introduction to Lord Grovesnor—Decline an acquaintance with his Lordship at this Period.

AS my present lodging was not a place for reception, I took a small house ready furnished in *Scotland-Yard*; and as I was one morning taking a walk in the *Park*, I was joined by Captain *Brice* of the *Navy*,

and a gentleman with him of the name of *Gordon*, who was one of the handsomest men I ever remember to have seen.—The latter soon took his leave of us, telling Mr. *Brice* that he would not fail to meet him at dinner.

I was now informed that this Mr. *Gordon* was a gentleman of large fortune, and lately arrived from *Scotland*; and as he was therefore just such a person as I stood in need of, I began to turn in my mind, how-I might procure his acquaintance:—for this purpose I invited Mr. *Brice* to dine with me the next day, who exactly as I had wished, not only engaged to come himself, but voluntarily promised to bring his friend along with him. This engagement being made we parted; and I returned

turned home elated with the prospect before me, and determined, if it exhausted all my treasure, to give my expected guests an elegant reception ; I accordingly ordered a very handsome dinner with all the necessary accompaniments from the *Salopian Coffee-house*.

The next day my visitors were true to their engagement, and I had arranged every thing as genteely as was in my power. They both appeared to be extremely pleased with their little entertainment, and the day was passed in a manner perfectly agreeable to the party. When it grew late Mr. *Gordon* said he had two favours to request of me, and he flattered himself that I would make him happy in granting them both.

The

The first was that I would permit him to discharge the tavern bill, to which I consented, after a little coquetish hesitation;—and the second was, to allow him the happiness of breakfasting with me the next morning, which as may well be supposed, I granted without any hesitation at all.

He came according to his appointment, and among other topics of conversation while he was taking his tea, he expressed his surprize that I should be pleased to live in such an obscure corner, when there were, any-where, and every-where, in his opinion, situations so much more agreeable.—I readily subscribed to his sentiments, and informed him of the real state of the case; that a few debts

debts to the amount of about four-score pounds, which I could not then discharge, obliged me to seek the asylum where I then was. “ If “ that was all,” he replied, “ the “ matter might easily be arranged ;” and desired me instantly to order in all my bills, and he would provide me with the means of discharging them. He then made me a present of twenty pounds, and appointed the following morning to come and bring me what was necessary to complete his promise.—As in the course of his conversation, he had more than once expressed a love for dress and personal decoration, I employed a part of his present bounty in redeeming some of my best cloaths from their dormant state, so that when he came the next day, he found me, and to
his

black as a thunder cloud at me, and said not a word. I, on the contrary was all life and vivacity, as I had reason to be, nor was I sorry when he flunk away, as he very soon did : “ I think, *Nancy*,” said Captain *Brice*, “ your friend *Boyle* looks angrily at you :” “ And who minds that” answered I.—“ Never care for him,” said Mr. *Gordon*, “ the more *Walsingham* flouts, the more fail you shall carry ;” and he was determined to put his resolution in immediate practice, for the instant we returned home, he sent for a silk mercer and ordered me the most elegant cloaths that could be got ready for the next day ; so that I appeared in the *Park* on the following noon, in a pink sattin gown, a white sattin petticoat trimmed with a gold fringe,

fringe, and every other part of my dress of similar elegance.

My friend Captain *Brice*, soon joined us, and we had not paced half the *Mall*, before we saw Mr. *Walsingham* surveying me with very particular attention. After some time he beckoned to Mr. *Brice*, who went to him, and as he afterwards told me, to enquire concerning Mr. *Gordon*, and to express his apprehensions that I should ruin him. However, after he had given me a very pretty character indeed, he condescended to make one of our company; but said nothing to me, and continued to hum a very favourite song of his from the Beggar's Opera,

“ Where

"Where will my lover hide,

"How cheat the wary pack?"

To which I replied, "neither with
"the corps at *Croydon*, nor at Mrs.
"Pike's." This answer put an end
to his tune, and without making a
single observation, he very shortly
after took his leave.

Without entering into a further
detail of my present mode of life, I
shall observe, once for all, that Mr.
Gordon continued with me about nine
months, in which time he had paid
all my debts, bought me a great
quantity of cloaths, gave me a
great deal of money, took me to
every place of diversion, and sup-
ported me in a style of the first ele-
gance.

gance. In short, I was now again in all my former eclat and figure.

Tho' it may rather appear to interrupt the immediate thread of my story, yet as the circumstance happened at this moment, and forms the foundation of a future part of my history, I shall introduce it, in the same order as it happened.

A poor woman who used to assist my servants in the more laborious occupations of the family, being very near her time of lying-in, applied to me for assistance, to get her into the *Lying-in-Hospital*; some of the gentlemen who visited me, were governors of that *Hospital*, so that I was obliged to enquire who, among my acquaintance enjoyed that privilege;

lege ; but not one could I find : at length, I was told, that Lord *Grosvenor* could probably oblige me if I was to make application to him. At this time, I had no other knowledge of his Lordship than by reputation ; but that was sufficient to encourage me to wait upon him, and request his patronage of my poor big-bellied *chare-woman*.— That I was received with civility cannot be doubted, when the disposition of the noble Lord is considered, and though he had no vacancy upon his list, he promised to speak to Lord *Clermont*, and in a few days he sent me an hospital-ticket of admission, for my poor petitioner.

When I had finished this business, I arose to take my leave, but his
 Lordship

Lordship insisted upon my staying half an hour, and we entered upon a long conversation about the ladies of my own profession. As we were both upon a subject which we pretty well understood, it was easily exhausted, and as I discovered in the source of it that Lord Grosvenor had a very great partiality for *lasses* with *golden locks*, I offered to recommend him one of that description, whom I had every reason to believe would meet with his approbation. He readily accepted of my proposal, and appointed to meet her at Mrs. Townshenda's, a very miserable place indeed, near *Argyle-buildings*. His Lordship was very well satisfied with my recommendation, and behaved very generously to me on the occasion.

Thus

Thus did I become acquainted with a nobleman so well known in the annals of the gallant world, and have ever since that time, lived upon terms of good humour with him.—His Lordship, indeed, expressed a wish at this period to know my address, and accompanied the request, with offers of service to me; but as I was then connected with a gentleman who deserved every mark of regard and attention from me, I begged his Lordship to excuse my receiving him; and he was pleased to approve of the reasons I gave for such a conduct.

CHAP.

CHAP. LII.

Another mad Frolic comes into my Head, on reading an Advertisement in a Newspaper of an elderly Gentleman wanting an House-keeper in the City, that I would offer myself—Set out for the Purpose—Meet the Rev. Mr. Ward, on my Way, who knew me in my disguise, and contrived to make me intoxicated before I made my Visit—Result of my Application, truly laughable—My good friend Mr. Gordon leaves England—An Adventure at Mrs. Matthews's, in King's-Place, &c.

A Few days after my visit to Grosvenor-square, Mr. Gordon was obliged to go into the country to settle some private business of his own, as he expected very soon to go to sea. During his absence, Captain Brice used to call upon me every day; and
one

one morning he very obligingly accompanied me to see a friend of mine, a Miss *Fanny Larkin*, who was, at that time, very much indisposed. As we were sitting in her apartment, I happened to take up the news-paper, and seeing an advertisement from an elderly gentleman, who wanted an house-keeper of a likely appearance, and under thirty years of age, it instantly occurred to me, to indulge my fancy for a joke, by going to apply for the service.

My friends not only laughed at my design, but encouraged me to pursue it; and the next morning I dressed myself in a manner suitable to the character I was to personate, and went in an hackney coach to the house of the gentleman, who was a

VOL. III. D merchant,

merchant, and lived in *Cateaton-street*, near the *Royal Exchange*;—but I was not so lucky as to find him at home;—he was gone to dine with his daughter, the servant said, in *Coleman-street*, and desired me to call again at six o'clock, when I should be sure of finding his master at home.

This disappointment by no means stopped the career of my project, for I was determined to go through with it, and return to *Cateaton-street* at the appointed hour. But, in my way home, whom should I meet but my old acquaintance the Reverend Mr. *Ward*, who, having heard the nature of my present errand into the city, and my determination of renewing it in the evening, proposed my saving myself the trouble of a jumble backwards

wards and forwards, by taking a dinner with him at a tavern in the neighbourhood. To this proposition I could not make any reasonable objection, and to a tavern we went, where he ordered an excellent dinner, and, as it was cold weather, a bowl of warm Madeira to keep us in employment till dinner was served. In short, the wine was found to be so good before we dined, that we made a second application to it afterwards, and contrived to drink three bottles between us ;—a little tiff of punch followed, and, as may be very well imagined, I found myself pretty far gone. However, intoxicated as I was, I was determined to go after my place, and a coach being called, away we went.

On our arrival at the merchant's house, we were informed that he was now at home, and waiting in expectation of seeing me. Accordingly I left the Parson in the coach, and was ushered up stairs into a large elegant drawing-room, where the old gentleman was sitting by a blazing fire, and taking his coffee with all the gravity of *cent. per cent.* But my first appearance in the room was head foremost:—I contrived, however, to get up again, and lay the blame of my fall upon an unpleasant connection that had been formed by the heel of my shoe and the carpet. I was desired to sit down, and, conscious as I was of my situation, put myself into that form which I thought might best hide my irregular state. Some general questions were

were now applied to me, which I answered perfectly well:—I passed myself for a widow—talked much of my qualifications—and named half a dozen persons at least of the first distinction, who were ready to certify for my honesty, virtue, and sobriety. This last was an unlucky word, for I had no sooner uttered it than I fell off the chair.

As it happened, my tongue was the sobrest part about me, and I complained that the fire had overcome me; upon which the good old man expressed his apprehensions that I was of too delicate a constitution to fill the place for which I was a candidate; but I professed myself as strong as *Hercules*, and gave a proof of it by another display on the floor. With

his assistance, however, I was once more set on my legs; but my legs, with all his assistance, were unable to do their office, and I made one grand reel across the room, and tumbled against an harpsichord, with a force that made every wire of it resound. My situation was now become too perceptible to admit of any further conversation; so the good merchant rang the bell, and ordered the servants to take care of me; which they did by putting me into the coach, where my friendly parson was waiting for me in all the impatience of a sound snoring sleep.

Though I was not able to stand, I was very able to judge that my situation would not recommend me to Mr. *Gordon*, if he should be at home to receive

receive me ; I therefore ordered the coachman to take me to a friend's house at *Lambeth*, where I passed the night. In the morning I returned home, and was happy to find that Mr. *Gordon* was not arrived from the country. But the very next day he came to town, and in a short time went to sea. His departure was sincerely lamented by me, as he was a man of the most amiable manners, and generous heart ; and that hour of my life would be marked with the blackest ingratitude, in which I should be forgetful of his goodness to me. As I had now no particular use for my house, I gave it up, discharged my servants, and returned to my old lodgings at *Lambeth*, and I might add, very soon afterwards, to my old ways in *London*.

The calling upon Mrs. *Matthews*, in *King's-Place*, had certainly a tendency of that nature, and that execrable woman did every thing in her power to promote it. She received me with uncommon kindness, invited me to pass some time at her house; and as she had a very beautiful girl with her, who had but lately left off selling *chick-weed*, and was not sufficiently easy in her new profession, she pressed me very much to initiate her into fashionable life, by accompanying her to the different places of public amusement, for which trouble she would make me any satisfaction in her power.

A masquerade at the *Pantheon* soon presented an opportunity to exhibit Miss *Charlotte*, for that was the young lady's

lady's name, to the town ; and we dressed ourselves in the most elegant manner, in order to attract the fashionable attention. After walking some time round the room, we sat ourselves down upon a sofa by Lady *Archer* and Miss *West*, who very politely made room for us ;—and no sooner had those ladies quitted the seat, than a gentleman, very finely dressed, thought proper to occupy it, who addressed a very tender discourse to my companion, and expressed a very anxious desire to know the place of her abode ; but I told her by no means to satisfy him till we were certain that he was a gentleman. For with all the host of spangles on his coat he seemed to wear an awkward appearance ; and as we had not seen him speak to a single person in the

room, I rather imagined that he was not at least a man of fashion. To say the truth, as I oftentimes told him afterwards, he looked like a strange bird who went by himself, for fear the rest should peck at him. After some conversation, we told him that we were going to take a turn in the gallery, and should see him again.

Poor *Charlotte*, however, was very much struck with him, and thought him, to use her own expression, a very grand man—and as that was the case, I began to enquire a little concerning her situation, in order to form a judgment whether it would be worth her while, or be likely to promote her happiness, to take up with this person, even supposing he should
prove

prove to be beneath what my ambition had marked out for her; and I soon found, from her account of her situation, that no change, in her opinion, could well be for the worse.

Her history was of the lowest class; her mother and herself had maintained themselves with selling chickweed and water-creffes about town; and happening to offer their merchandize at Mrs. *Matthews's* door, she soon saw, that a great share of beauty was covered by *Charlotte's* rags; and inviting the mother and child into her house, she first gave them charity, and then bribed the woman to leave the girl to her disposal: prostitution of course followed, and *Charlotte* declared, that such was the ill usage of Mrs. *Matthews*, that there

was no situation, even her former one of selling chick-weed, but she would willingly prefer to her present miserable life.

This being the posture of poor *Charlotte's* affairs, I thought we should not pass by the present opportunity of changing, at least, if not of improving them. For this purpose we returned to the sofa; and we had not been long there, before our splendid gentleman returned to us. As he continued to renew his addresses to *Charlotte*, I thought it right to address a few enquiries to him; he told us that his name was *Mackenzie*, and that he lived at a ready-furnished lodgings in *Berkley-square*. He was lately returned, he said, from the East

East Indies, whether he proposed very shortly to return, and made some very lavish offers to *Charlotte*, if she would consent to accompany him to that distant part of the globe. At all events I desired her to give him her address, and he promised not to let the next day pass over without calling upon her, and renewing the proposals he had just taken the liberty of making to her. We now amused ourselves for the remainder of the night with an elderly nobleman, who wore a star and a ribband, and whose gallantry conducted us, after a great deal of masquerade pleasantry, to the chaste abodes of *King's-Place*, where he left us, as it happened, to Mother *Matthews* and ourselves.

The

The next day Mr. *Mackenzie* made his appearance, and proposed to take Miss *Charlotte* under his immediate protection. In consequence of this proposition, Mrs. *Matthews* made out a little demand of about fourscore pounds against the girl, who did not, in justice, owe her as many shillings; and Mr. *Mackenzie*, in order to avoid all trouble and delay, paid the impudent demand, and bore away his lovely, and I may add, happy prize. —I paid her several visits in her new situation, and found her extremely satisfied with Mr. *Mackenzie*; indeed, she gave a proof of her regard for him, as she accompanied him to *India*. She was a tall beautiful girl, of an amiable temper, and a grateful disposition. Fortunately for her, she had

had not been long enough on the town, to learn the science so universally practised among this unhappy species of women, of not only being enemies to themselves, but to those who have been their best friends.

CHAP.

C H A P. LIII.

History of Mrs. Matthews, and her Mansion in King's Place, with a great variety of Anecdotes of the meretricious kind—Amongst them the various Amours of Capt. Stoney, (now Mr. Bowes)—Mrs. Matthews completely taken in with a young Miss, whom she picked up in the Streets, and introduced to Mr. Bowes, as a Virgin Pout—An Account of the beautiful Madame Buison, who lived with Mr. Fordyce the time he failed.

THE history of Mrs. Matthews and her mansion is the history of human depravity in the extreme.—It was filled with a troop of unfortunate poor girls from thirteen to seventeen years of age, who had been collected by her emissaries from
the

the different corners of the town, to answer the purpose of her infamous trade. When they were once received within her walls there was no retreat—the door was locked with all the vigilance of a prison-guard for fear of an escape;—and though these sad victims were occasionally decked out for the purpose of exciting passion and satisfying lust, the greatest part of their time was passed in the kitchen or the garret, with scarce a covering upon them, and supported with food rather calculated to create disease than to sustain life:—while the pay of their prostitution was hardly earned before it was taken from them by the unfeeling and abandoned mistress of their vices and their misery.

Among

Among other gentlemen that frequented the house, and who used to come generally with the late Duke of *Ancaſter* and the preſent Lord *Lincoln*, was a Captain *Stoney*, who ſome time after took the name of *Bowes*, on his marriage with Lady *Strathmore*.— This gentleman was a great friend to Mrs. *Matthews*, and a great favourite of every woman in the houſe, as I never heard any woman ſpeak of him but in the higheſt terms for amiable attentions and a noble generosity. He was what we, in our line of profeſſion, call a friend to women; by which we mean, kindneſs of behaviour and diſpoſition to do them good, abſtracted from the looſer purpoſes of voluptuous gratification.

I once

Once, in particular, remember a circumstance where his passions yielded to his heart, and the wish to possess beauty gave way to the desire of preserving it.—She was such a woman as might have tempted a hermit; yea her tears made a hermit almost of Mr. *Bowes*;—her story, when he heard it, checked the current of his passions, and, instead of leading her to the couch of prostitution which was prepared for him, and where he could have found but little resistance, he bore her himself to her paternal roof, appeased the wrath of an offended parent, which had driven her from it, and, by saving the honour of the girl, preserved the peace of her family.

I men-

I mention these circumstances with more satisfaction, because I find that gentleman has been represented as possessing a cruel and tyrannical disposition, and is accused of exercising it on helpless women. I am not in a situation to know the foundation of such charges, but I had some reason to be informed of his character, in situations where character generally appears without disguise; and in that career of life wherein the passions take their course without any claims from hypocrisy, and possess a perfect disdain of all restraint.

I have no interest in doing justice to the conduct of Mr. *Bowes*, but the interest of that respect which is natural for me to entertain for one who has experienced every kind of treatment

treatment from pleasurable men, and know how grateful poor unfortunate women ought to be to those, who, having it in their power to treat them as they please, possess a generosity of disposition to treat them as they ought.

For my own part, I never spoke to Mr. *Bowes* in my life, nor should I have ever known what I have written about him, but from a ridiculous event I am now going to relate, which brought forward, in a house where it happened, and in other places where it was related, a variety of gallant histories of this gentleman; among which, there was not one but tended to his honour, as a real friend to the sex.

But

But to return to my history :—

As Mr. *Stoney* was a generous worshipper of beauty, he was a particular object of attention to Mrs. *Matthews*;—and the instant any new object entered her repository, he was generally informed of the event, and invited to partake of the solemn initiation of the new disciple into the mysteries of that hallowed place.

One of these young candidates at the Temple of Pleasure, for she was not 14 years of age, having been found in the purlieus of Westminster, and delivered up to the tuition of the Arch-Priestess Mrs *Matthews*, Mr. *Stoney* was informed of the arrival. The little dirty drab being soon stripped of her rags, but not soon cleansed

cleanfed of her filth, was at length decorated in all the elegance of the houfe-wardrobe ; the curls now hung on her neck ; the filver taffels dazled on her fhoulders ; filk and gauze ribband exerted their rival powers to adorn her ; and this little huffey, who had been the paramour of half the drummers in the guards, was introduced to Mr. *Stoney*, as poffeffing one charm at leaft of which he had long been deprived.

The vifit of Mr. *Stoney* was not long ; and as he went out of the houfe, the artful minx contrived to follow him, unperceived by any one, and made a very complete efcape with all the money he had given her, and all the fine cloaths Mrs. *Matthews* had lent her.—No fooner was it known

that the gentleman was gone than the old avaritious hag was up stairs to get the present that had been made ; when she soon let us hear below stairs of her disappointment ; and she exclaimed as loudly, and with as much sense of injury as if *she* had a right to clamour against injustice.

For my part, when the *old* jade came and related to us the trick of the *young* jade, I could not refrain from laughing at a business which I enjoyed in my heart ; and, if the mischief had extended no further, it might soon have been forgotten. But our young princess was of a very different spirit than to be satisfied with her present gains ; for, in less than an hour, she returned in all her gay apparel, accompanied by a kind
of

of barrow-woman and three fellows, of the very lowest description that possibly can be conceived, in order to bully Mrs. *Matthews* out of a little of her *own* money.

These people formed a most extraordinary contrast to the well dressed Miss, who returned with them; but when they all began to open at once on the old procuress, there appeared to be no difference in the pack—for they all demanded eight guineas the gentlemen had given her, and which the young minx declared Mrs. *Matthews* had taken from her; and, on this unexpected demand being refused, they accused her of having caused the girl to be ruined, and talked so loudly of indictments and pillory, that, if I had not been there to have taken up her cause, the old

woman would have been forced into a compliance with their demands. At length, however, after a long scene of altercation, in which I played my part so violently as to bear up against the united efforts of the barrow-woman, the three fellows, and the young lady, as they called her, I desired Mrs. *Matthews*, who, whatever she might be in other respects, was wrongfully accused in this, to give the people something to get rid of them; so, with two guineas to the grown gentlemen and lady, and cession of all the fine cloaths to young Miss, we got this very troublesome and alarming company out of the house.

I now became so tired of the miserable scenes of this brothel, that I
took

took my leave of Mrs. Matthews's, and returned to my lodgings at *Lambeth*. However, it was not my destiny to have done with her, or at least she was resolved not to have done with me—for not a day passed but I received some tempting invitation to return to her; but I withstood them all, till she acquainted me that she had a beautiful French lady, just arrived at her house, and entreated me, in the most flattering manner, to come to be her conductress in the *beau monde*. Some promises also accompanied this invitation, which, assisted a little by my curiosity to see this foreign charmer, induced me to pay another visit to *King's-Place*.

This unhappy lady fully answered the description that had been given of

her ;—she was very handsome, and her form of the finest make—but, unluckily at this time, it was disturbed by a state of pregnancy pretty far advanced. On my expressing, what I really felt, a great deal of surprise at seeing her there, she told me that she had lived with Mr. *Fordyce*, the *banker*, and was then with child by him ; but, as his affairs had turned out as all the world knew, she was under the necessity of getting into any situation that offered ; and, having no friends, she applied to be received into the house where she then was, having often heard of *King's-Place* as a receptacle for women, though she had never been there, till the present moment of necessity had turned her forlorn footsteps thither.

I really

I really commiserated this amiable person's unhappy situation; and it was more with a view to do her service, by accompanying her to public places, than with any of the fine promises which Mrs. *Matthews* made me, that occasioned my remaining a short time beneath that roof; and, in a very few days after my introduction to her, as we were walking in the *Park*, we were joined by Captain *Bosville*, of the *Guards*, who was extremely taken by Madame *Buisson*, for that was the name, at least which she gave as her own; and having asked, as may be supposed, obtained an unopposed permission to visit her. This gentleman supported her in a very handsome manner, and treated her with that urbanity of manners which women in

such a situation so seldom experience, and which, when they are so fortunate, gives them all the happiness they are capable of receiving. Thus she continued till her pregnancy advanced to the last crisis, when Mr. *Bosville* ordered a lodging to be taken for her at *Lambeth*, where she received every comfort, and was cherished with every attention it was in his power to bestow.

CHAP.

CHAP. LIV.

Lord Grovesnor wishes to engage me in his Service as a Procurefs—Sit to Mr. P. a Painter, for the Figure of a Magdalen, to exhibit at Somerset-House—Violent Outrage at Mrs. Matthews's—Receive an Account of my Father being pressed into the King's Service—Set off for Portsmouth to get him released—Meet with Mr. Walsingham, renew our former Connection with greater Ardour than ever.

AT this time I was again continually with Mrs. Matthews, and seldom went home but to change my cloaths, when I always found messages from Lord Grosvenor, who expressed a very earnest desire to see me; but the maid always sent word

I was out of town; nor should I have seen his Lordship at all, had it not been for a circumstance which I am going to relate.

A painter, of some eminence, (a Mr. P.) happening to see me at the house I now so much frequented, told the mistress of it that he would give me ten guineas if I would sit for him in the character of a *Magdalen*, in order to exhibit it at the *Royal Academy*; and as money was always a very powerful inducement with me, I felt myself rather disposed to gratify *Apelles* with his model, though the idea of presenting it in such a situation as he proposed, and to a man of whom I was wholly ignorant, formed a counterbalance to the gain which was to proceed from it; but Mrs.
Matthews,

Matthews, who was never backwards in promoting gain of any kind, persuaded me to consent upon the expectation that the being hung in the exhibition might be of service to me, and, as she was pleased to express herself, make my fortune.

Thus encouraged, I went to the painter's house; and while I was busy about the first sitting, who should make his appearance but Lord *Grosvenor*, who, after rallying me for being so long out of town, desired I would take the earliest opportunity I possibly could to call at his house in *Grosvenor-Square*; but I was so extremely displeased with the painter for suffering any person whatever to come into the room to see me in such a dress, or rather such an undress,

that I soon took myself away, leaving the picture half finished, and the painter rather confused at the very unexpected strain of reproach which I levelled at him for what I conceived, and I believe, with great justice, a purposed arrangement between him and Lord *Grosvenor* to expose me in such a situation to the latter. The painter renewed his applications to Mrs. *Matthews*, and, by her persuasions, I was induced to give him an opportunity of completing his *Magdalen*, of which in every part of the character, but the repentant one, I was by no means an improper model. The picture was afterwards permitted to add to the beauties of the exhibition, but I never received a farthing of the ten guineas which had been promised for my contribution to

to the merit of it. I went, however, to pay a-visit to Lord *Grosvenor*, who wished to engage me in the number of those who furnish novelties for his seraglio; and I entered immediately into his lordship's service.

At this time Mrs. *Matthews* wished extremely to take me into partnership with her, or to leave her house to me at a certain rent, and retire into the country; but infamy itself may be more than infamous, and enured as I had been to every chance and change of prostitution, I found this woman too bad, unprincipled, and savage, to have any further communication with her. I therefore refused all her propositions, and was preparing to quit her for ever, when the maid servant informed me that her

mistress found me so necessary to the profitable direction of her convent, that she had purposely hid three pair of sheets, with the intent to swear that I had robbed her of them, and by that means to frighten me into a compliance with her wishes.

This intelligence did not produce a common effect; for it threw me into such a violent rage, that after having let loose a pretty considerable share of my anger at the old and infamous procuress, I threw open the house-door, and made such a noise as to call out the people of the adjoining streets; and when a sufficient number was assembled, I told my story, and invited them into the house to see the cruel and abominable manner in which this wretched woman
kept

kept the unhappy creatures that she had seduced beneath her roof. I then made a general search through the house 'till I found the sheets, whose pretended loss was to be laid to my thieving.

This noise and disturbance threw the old witch into fits; and while she was in this situation, I and the maid, who desired to accompany me, left the house, to the outrage of the mob, who did not quit the place till they had taken the liberty to furnish very ample business for the glazier.

The agitation I suffered on this occasion threw me into a fit of illness, which confined me to my bed for five weeks. However, I had a gratified revenge to console me, for the
the

the profligate inhuman hag was forced to shut up her house for some time, and retire into the country.

It is generally believed, and not, I confess, without reason, that such a life as I have led deprives the heart of every amiable propensity, chills the warmth of affection, and, from a variety of disgraceful, but natural causes, deprives the mind in particular from that sense of duty which a parent claims from a child: but I declare, and I make my boast, with some degree of honest pride, that though shame, and a consciousness of having deserved to be disowned by my father, might keep me from approaching him as I ought, yet there never was a moment of my life when I did not feel the most dutiful affection

tion for him ; and an account I now received of a recent misfortune affected me with the most poignant grief.

I had scarce recovered from my late fit of sickness to venture out of the house, when I received a letter from my father, informing me that he had been taken by a press-gang, and was forced on board a man of war ; from which situation, so cruel to him at his advanced period of life, and so different from the prospects and situation of his earlier days ; he entreated me by every application in my power to relieve him. My feelings on this intelligence did not disgrace me ; and I made immediate application to Lord *Sandwich*, Admiral *Hardy*, Sir *Lockhart Ross*, and Sir
Thomas

Thomas Pye to get his discharge, but in vain.—I then got Captain *Brice* to write to Captain *Stanhope*, who commanded the *Garland Frigate*, then at *Spithead*, on board of which he had been sent; but was, as I afterwards understood, so highly esteemed for his professional knowledge, that he was determined not to part with him.

Finding, therefore, that I was not likely to succeed by distant applications, I determined to go down to *Portsmouth* and speak to Captain *Stanhope* myself, and I set out in the stage-coach for that purpose. One of my fellow travellers happened to be a young gentleman, who was a midshipman belonging to one of the ships which composed the fleet, then
about

about to sail for the *Channel* service; and in his conversation about it, he happened to mention that Captain *Walsingham* commanded the *Thunderer*, then at *Spithead*. This circumstance gave new hopes to me in my expedition, and I determined to apply to my former friend; and though I had not seen him for a considerable time, I rather felt confident that he would not turn a deaf ear to my petition. This confidence was, however, in some degree suppressed;—when, soon after my arrival in *Portsmouth*, the Midshipman, whom I have just mentioned, very politely escorted me to the door of Captain *Walsingham*'s lodgings; for a very impertinent *valet de chambre* told me, without ceremony or civility, that

that the morning was the only time to call there, and that, if I wished to see his master, it must be as early as ten o'clock.

Persons in distress, and especially those whose minds have not been fortified by education and enlightened society, are much disposed to be governed by superstitious affections; and however unjustly, I could not conquer the apprehension that the ungracious reception I had met with from the servant in the evening, was an unfavourable omen of that which I should find from the master in the morning: In short, I passed a very uncomfortable night, and at nine o'clock the next day I presented myself at Captain *Walsingham's* lodging, when I
was

was informed he would wait upon me in about half an hour.

It was not beyond that time when he entered the room, accompanied by General *Monckton*, Sir *Christopher Keys*, and Captain *Finch*, and in a very polite, but distant manner, asked me my business. As I held down my head he did not know me till I spoke, and I told him that it was to relieve my father from his miserable and unmerited situation that I took the liberty of applying to him. He then smiled, and told me I should have my father ; that he was engaged to sit upon a martial ; but, if I would favour him with my address, he would call upon me about twelve o'clock, and talk with me further about the business. My address was
eagerly

eagerly presented to him, and I returned to the inn in a very different state of mind and flow of spirits from that in which I had so lately left it.

But I had not been there above ten minutes before he arrived; and, on entering the room, exclaimed, “In the name of wonder, my dear girl, what has brought you here?”—“Nothing more nor less,” answered I, “than the situation of my father, who is too old to engage in the service of a king’s ship, and whose discharge must be obtained, or it will break my heart.”—“Well,” said he, “make yourself easy, and I will go myself to Captain Stanhope, and by some means contrive to release your father.”—He then gave me all

all the money he had about him, and bid me expect him in the evening, when he would bring me more.

Words are not sufficient to express my contentment at the assurances which were now given me of my poor father's release ; and nothing would serve me but I must go on board of the *Garland* and inform him of the happy tidings. When I arrived along side the ship, he was soon called, and obtained immediate leave to come into the boat to me, where he embraced his daughter, who was dutiful, at least in this instance, with a flood of tears ; but I had only wiped them away with my handkerchief but with my words, by assuring him of Captain *Walsingham's* promise
to

to release him from his present situation. — After giving him a few guineas, in case he should want money, I embraced him again, received another shower of parental tears on my cheek, and returned on shore.

C H A P. LV.

Mr. Walsingham grows more attached to me than ever.—Releases my Father, and proposes to settle him in some comfortable Line for the remainder of his Life, which the Old Gentleman rejects, when he found it was to be at the Expence of his Daughter's Prostitution.—The Manner of my spending my Time at Portsmouth, and the Difficulties that arose in procuring Lodgings, where Mr Walsingham could visit me.—Some Anecdotes while I remained there.

MR. Walsingham had not forgotten his former punctuality, for he came to me as the clock struck the hour which he had appointed, and made his visit more than welcome by the assurance that my father was on board

board the *Thunderer*, where he had ordered every attention to be paid him, and that he was to come to his lodgings the next morning at nine o'clock, in order to make some arrangement for his future service. I had not words to acknowledge the kindness, and when I observed to Mr. *Walsingham*, weeping as I made the observation, that I had been the cause of my father's ruin and of my mother's death, and had no other means of making atonement for my past offences, but by doing what I now could for his ease and comfort,—he replied, that as he must take some share in that business, it should be his endeavour to assist in making some amends for it; and that therefore he had three proposals to offer to my father's choice, one of which he

flattered himself, would make the old man happy; which was to buy him a small house and get him a comfortable place in the *King's-yard*, or make him a warrant officer on board of his ship, a situation which would also secure something for his widow after his death, or he would allow him an annuity during his life, when I might board with him, 'till Mr. *Walsingham* came from *sea*; for he intended, he said, to go out only with the *Channel* fleet, and when that returned, he was determined to go to *sea* no more.

I have often declared, and the declaration came from my heart, that however my affections might have had their temporary objects, Mr. *Walsingham* was the real possessor of

them ; and certain am I, that if his situation had been such as to have permitted his being constantly with me, I should never have been false to my first attachment to him ; but his conduct at this period, and on this particular occasion was so peculiarly gracious, and unexpected, that all my first regard returned, with renewed violence, and I would from thence have been contented to have lived in any situation with him, and for him alone ;—nor ever been tempted by any allurements, however glittering, to have quitted the humblest station in which he might have placed me. But such a resolution was not to be exercised, and it was his lot in a short time afterwards, to be lost to his country, and to the world. Nor will it be relating a circumstance to my

own dishonour, if I mention, that when his country and friends wept his melancholy catastrophe, that my tears flowed in secret, and that I now feel, and shall ever be sensible of the most poignant regret at his loss, and grateful regard to his memory, while my heart is susceptible of those sensations.

But to return to my story.—

My father 'till this moment, was never troubled by the least suspicion that Mr. *Walsingham's* friendship for me had any tendency, but such as that sentiment might fully justify. He had considered him hitherto as a relation of my husband; and had ever mentioned him in that light and that alone to myself and others.—

But when all these proposals were made to him, he began to think all was not right; and having too much integrity, and spirit to receive anything which he apprehended was purchased by the sacrifice of his daughter's virtue; he, with every expression of gratitude, declined accepting the offers which Mr. *Walsingham* had made.

He now called upon me,—and after the first salutation, which I need not describe, was over, he made some enquiries about my husband; which though with great delicacy marked his suspicion,—I gave him such answers, as did not, *I fear*, quite remove them; however, said he, Captain *Walsingham* is an excellent man, and taking ten guineas out of his pocket,

pocket, "this is what he has given
 "me," continued he, "to take me
 "to *London*;" and to *London* he
 went the very next morning. He
 wished very much that I should ac-
 company him, but my inclinations
 to remain with Mr. *Walsingham* were
 never so ferious as they were at this
 moment, and as he did every thing
 to encourage them, I was resolved
 to remain at *Portsmouth*, 'till the fleet
 failed.

I remained for some time at the
 Inn, 'till the scruples of the landlady
 breaking forth in unpleasant obser-
 vations, on my being so continually
 visited by a Captain of a *Man of War*,
 he determined to get me a lodging.
 This, however, was a matter of no
 small difficulty, as he knew how

very fast anecdotes travelled from *Portsmouth* to *London*, and therefore dared not suffer it to be known that he had such a person as myself with him. At length, however, an apartment was taken, and he visited me under the pretence of bringing me messages from my husband, who was represented at a Lieutenant on board his ship; but as this Lieutenant never made his appearance; the mistress of the house began to hint her suspicions that there was no husband at all, and I was obliged to remove to a lodging on the *Common*, where Mr. *Walsingham* himself was not known.

Here we remained for some time, very comfortably, but happening to leave some of Mr. *Walsingham*'s franks upon

upon the table, the Master of the house, who had all the suspicion of a rank *Methodist*, began to look a little more minutely into our conduct in order to guard against any defilement his house might suffer from my abode, and my friends visits there. When once this pious man had got upon the scent he soon discovered enough to be certain of what he suspected; and one evening he, without any reserve, told Captain *Walsingham* that he knew who he was, and desired him to take me out of the house, as he knew also who I was.—“If that is the case,” said Mr. *Walsingham*, “and you really know who I am, you ought to have kept your distance; and if you do not,” continued he, drawing his hanger, “I will cut

“ your ears off.” As I really apprehended he would murder the man, I screamed out with all my might, which brought down the man’s wife in her shift, and a very pretty scene of confusion ensued; ’till at length, Mr. *Walsingham* desired me to put on my cloaths, for that I should leave the house that night, “as he was determined to send his ship’s crew the next morning to pull it about the owner’s ears.

We accordingly sallied forth, late and showery as it was; and as *Portsmouth* was then so extremely full of people from the circumstance of the grand fleet, not a bed could be procured for me; so that dripping wet as I was, there was nothing to be done but to move along the ramparts
from

from sentry-box, to sentry-box, 'till we got in the vicinity of Mr. *Wal-
signham*'s lodgings ; and after a thousand contrivances to get his servants into their beds,—he contrived at last, to get me into his.

The next day, new difficulties occurred ; and no Pantomime ever exhibited more tricks, than were now displayed, to prevent the discovery of my being in the house. In the morning there was to be no fire as usual in his bed room, because it made his head ach,—as for company he was to see none, as he was very much indisposed ;—and then two muffins were ordered for breakfast instead of one, because he found himself so unaccountably hungry. While the servants were ordered not to wait as

he would be interrupted in writing his letters: but the worst of all was, that I was obliged to be squeezed into a closet, where I lay half smothered, upon a mattrafs 'till it was dark and an opportunity might be found to get me out of the house unseen.

As Mr. *Walsingham* had so many letters to write, he ordered his dinner at his lodgings, and taking an opportunity to send his servants with different messages, I was permitted to creep out of my hole, like a mouse, in order to get a little food,—and with all the apprehension of that timorous animal, whenever the least noise was heard, I used to run back to my retreat, with any thing I could snatch from my plate, and there lye munching 'till I had permission

mission to risk another five minutes at the table.—Thus I remained 'till late in the evening, when we made our escape unperceived, and without the least suspicion in the family, or even among Captain *Walsingham's* servants, that he had entertained such a companion as myself.

But difficulty seemed to follow upon difficulty, and to get a bed this night, was as arduous an undertaking as in the preceding evening. But Mr. *Walsingham* had a most admirable genius for a scheme, and according to his suggestion we continued walking about 'till all the stage-coaches were gone for *London*; and then we made a push, at a decent little public-house, for a bed, under

the representation that I had missed the coach for town. Here I was, very fortunately for me, received without hesitation, and treated with great civility; but the next day I was obliged to look out for another lodging; and in order to avoid all future doubt and trouble on the occasion, I applied to a Jew, who for a small sum of money undertook to procure me an apartment, where I might do what,—receive whom,—and pass for any character I pleased.

Here we remained for some time; and though the people of the House knew Mr. *Walsingham* perfectly well, they appeared, with great propriety to consider him as my husband,

band, and never gave either him or me the least reason to suspect that they were at all acquainted with our real situation and character.

CHAP. LVI.

The Manner of my spending my Time at Portsmouth—Many little Adventures that occurred during my stay there—Mr. Walsingham sails, though in a very indifferent State of Health—Returns very ill, and obliged to go London, where I immediately followed him—Several Letters that passed between us.

ALL the time which Mr. *Walsingham* could spare, he was with me; and, among other methods we took to amuse ourselves, I shall relate one which we employed to be revenged of our religious landlord, whose impertinent behaviour drove us from
his

his house, and subjected us to so many inconveniencies.

My good friend, among many other very pleasant qualifications, possessed, as I have observed, an uncommon talent for carrying on an unlucky scheme, and he now set his genius to work, to torment the psalm-singing gentleman in question. He accordingly enclosed a letter, directed to this man, to some friend in *London*, who was to forward it by the post; and this epistle, which was written in a lawyer's hand, informed him, that he had been traced out as heir to a very considerable fortune, and desired his immediate attendance in *London* to take possession of it. The information was given in the character of an attorney, who named

4

his

his address, and expressed his impatience to confirm it, from the happy intelligence he had communicated by letter. Accordingly the poor Methodist, who was a dupe to his faith, at least in this instance, set off immediately for *London*, where he soon discovered the imposition; but did not, as we afterwards found to our great satisfaction, exercise that resignation on the score of his disappointment, which the religion he so zealously professed teaches to its votaries.

Another trick of a similar kind we played on a Mr. *Martin*, who was concerned in providing something or other for the shipping, and of course had occasional business with Mr. *Walsingham*. This person paid his court to me in very express terms, and accompanied

accompanied his proposals with very
 generous offers; but at this time I
 was so sincerely and entirely attached
 to my friend *Boyle*, that the first mo-
 narch on the globe would not have
 tempted me from him. I therefore,
 without hesitation, told him of Mr.
Martin's propositions, and begged
 that the gentleman might be forbid-
 den the house. By no means, said
Walsingham; we will cool his passion
 with a jaunt, and a plan was imme-
 diately formed for that purpose. Ac-
 cordingly a day or two afterwards, in
 one of my morning walks, I met
 Mr. *Martin*, and treated him with a
 degree of encouraging civility which
 I had never before shewn him. This
 conduct of mine immediately brought
 on his declarations; and as he fore-
 saw the difficult of succeeding while
 I was

I was in the country, he proposed to go to town whenever I went thither, in order to pay his devoirs to me there without interruption. To this proposal I shewed no hesitation, but told him that I should leave *Portsmouth* in a day or two, and give him my address to an house in town, where my apartments were. I also desired that he would take no denial, but walk boldly up to the first floor, in spite of any opposition, where I should probably be ready to receive him.

In the mean time I wrote to town to my acquaintance, informing them, that I apprehended such a person would call for me there, and desired that they would chastise his impertinence as it deserved. In short, not
to

to lengthen my story, he set off immediately for *London*; and when he concluded that I was arrived, he proceeded to my lodgings as he thought them, but found a reception of a different nature from that which he expected. for as I had hinted to him, he would take no denial; and in attempting to force his way up stairs, he received a very handsome drubbing, and was afterwards turned, with no common inconvenience, into the street. I really thought that Mr. *Walsingham* would have expired with laughter, when I read the account which my *London* friend sent me of Mr. *Martin's* adventure.

Captain *Finch* and Captain *Garnier* both made some attempts to see me, but that was not a moment for me
to

to prefer any man upon earth to Mr. *Walsingham*, who had already assured me, that when he returned from sea he would buy me a small house somewhere in the neighbourhood of *Clapham*, and live entirely with me; or at least as much as his own domestic concerns would possibly suffer him.

Thus did we live for a considerable time in great comfort and mutual satisfaction;—but this life is not made for a continuance of pleasure;—and the grand fleet threatened a very speedy departure: but this was not all, for Mr. *Walsingham* became very much indisposed, and was under the necessity of remaining at his own lodgings, so that I did not see him for several days, at the very time
when

when I wished to see him most, and when orders for the sailing of the fleet were every moment expected.

He did not, however, forget me, but sent me the following short account of himself.

“ My dear Nancy,

“ I intended calling on you both
 “ yesterday and to-day; but I have
 “ been so much indisposed, that I am
 “ hardly able to stir. I will see you
 “ as soon as I am better. Don’t
 “ send an answer to this, but say it
 “ is very well.

“ Your’s most affectionately,

“ B. W.”

Mrs. Archer, No. 10.
 North-street, Common:

This

This account of his illness from himself, with the expectation of his going immediately to sea, made me extremely unhappy; but the next day he was something better, and did not fail to call upon me, as he had promised. Well, said he, my dear girl, I expect orders every day to go to sea, but pray that I may not be knocked on the head before I come back and settle you; for my whole care at present is to see you well provided for, and in a situation above the sport of a malevolent and unforgiving world. This sentiment he repeated again and again—and, on his leaving me, added every expression that could convey the strong affection he felt for me.

As

As his illness returned upon him, he was obliged to return to his confinement, so that I did not see him for near a week; when one morning my landlord came to me in a great hurry, and told me, as the fleet was then going out, if I did not look out sharp, I should not be able to see my husband before he sailed. In consequence of this intelligence, I hurried away to *Portsmouth* as fast as I could in order to see him, when at the very Moment he was gone to take leave of me, and we unluckily missed of each other; however, when I returned home, I found the following letter which he had left for me:

“ My dear Nancy,

“ I have been very ill ever since

“ I saw you, and at present am

“ walking

“ walking about with a fever on
“ me; but I am forced to go on board
“ as we are going to sea. I would
“ not have you stay here longer than
“ a fortnight. If we don't return
“ by that time, go to town, and write
“ to *Portsmouth* where I may send to
“ you.

“ It is not, I hope, necessary to
“ caution you to take care of your-
“ self, and not, on any account, to
“ mention my name, as our mar-
“ riage must be kept a secret.

“ Be a good girl, and you will al-
“ ways find me

“ Your affectionate

“ B. W.”

Mrs. Archer, No. 10,
North-street, Common.

On

On receiving this letter I thought that I should have gone raving mad, and was not able to hold up my head for several days. In this situation the people of the house did every thing in their power to pacify and comfort me; and continually filled me with hopes that, as the weather was bad, the fleet would return. But it was not long before I received all the satisfaction which I could receive, in a state of absence, from the only object of my happiness. Never in my life had I received more heartfelt pleasure than when I received the following letter, which was brought to my bed, where I lay moping and melancholy, till the assurances this paper brought, raised me into spirits and contentment.

Torbay, October 29, 1779.

“ My dear Nancy,

“ We have had some very bad
 “ weather, and have been obliged
 “ to stop here. I inclose you some
 “ money for fear you should want it
 “ before my return—I leave it to your
 “ prudence how to conduct yourself;
 “ —if it is known you and I are mar-
 “ ried, you know we must be parted.

“ I would not have you leave
 “ *Portsmouth* till I return, which I
 “ hope will be soon—God bless you,
 “ my dear Nancy—Believe me most
 “ sincerely and affectionately yours,

“ B. W.”

To which I wrote the following
 answer :—

“ My

“ My dear Walsingham,

“ I received yours, dated the 29th.

“ I am happy to hear you are so

“ much better. Never mind the

“ badness of the weather, so you

“ have your health. You had no

“ occasion to send me money, as I

“ had not meddled with what you

“ left me. I have no news to send ;

“ God send your health better, and

“ your soon return. I have still

“ reasons to think I am with

“ child. You would laugh to see

“ what an oeconomist I am grown ;

“ for one guinea serves me a week,

“ and the time was that twenty

“ would not, as you know too well,

“ I believe. Let me hear from you

“ as soon as you can. I have no

“ amusement here, for I never go

“ out of doors, and the chief of my

G 2

“ employ-

“ employment is reading. The
“ people of the house are very civil
“ and obliging to me. I shall think
“ every day a month till I see you
“ again. Till then, adieu ! from your
“ affectionate,

“ A. ARCHER.”

I continued in my present situation much easier in my mind than I had been, till I received another letter, which caused me to remove from the one, and occasioned a very unpleasant change in the other.

“ My dear Nancy,

“ I am obliged, from a bad state of
“ health, to leave my ship and go to
“ London ; so that I would not ad-
“ vise

"vise you to remain any longer in
 "Portsmouth.—My dear girl, your
 "affectionate,

"B. W."

Exon, Nov. 19.

This letter threw me into a flood of tears, and the woman of the house, who was in the parlour while I read it, was extremely alarmed at the effect it had upon me. I was not only uneasy at Mr. *Walsingham's* illness, but I was apprehensive that some suggestions might have offered to him, or some circumstance happened, which would occasion our separation. *Portsmouth*, therefore, was no longer a place for me, and I set off, with all my package, that very night for *London*. On my arrival there, I sent to the public-house which was fre-

quented by Mr. *Walsingham's* servants, to discover whether he was really ill, or if his account of himself was an excuse, which I expected, to get rid of me; but my messenger brought me back the news, that he was really very ill and attended by physicians.

Though my alarms were increased with respect to him, I received some consolation from the reflection that his regard for me was unabated; and I received a very sufficient one the next day, when he sent me the following answer to the letter, which I wrote him, enquiring after his health, and expressing my apprehensions, that he was for some reason or other displeased with me:

“ My

" My dear girl,

" I am not in the least angry with
 " you. I am sure I have no reason
 " to be so ; but have the greatest
 " regard possible for you.

" I am very ill indeed, and this
 " morning shall have a consultation.
 " Write to me by the penny-post,
 " and let me know how to direct to
 " you in future. God bless you.

" B. W."
 Portugal-Street.

This letter gave me some satisfaction, tho' I was extremely unhappy at the dangerous illness which he appeared to me to describe; and ignorant as I was of the parade of phy-

fic, I thought that a consultation was little better than a prelude to the sending for an undertaker: Indeed, I thought of nothing but him; and I never went out of my lodgings till I wrote to him for permission to go and stay at my father's till I had the pleasure of being informed of his recovery. This request of mine gave him great satisfaction, and he sent me the following answer to it:

“ My dear Nancy,

“ In the first place, I have been
 “ so ill that I have not been able
 “ to write to you. In the next, had
 “ I been able, I could not make out
 “ your direction. I am now, I
 “ hope, recovering, and I shall get
 “ well soon.

“ I think

“ I think you are extremely right
 “ in going to your father’s; but
 “ send me your direction that I may
 “ know where to find you.—From
 “ your affectionate friend,—you
 “ *Devil of Clubs.*

B. W.”

Tuesday Morning.

Whenever he used the expression
 of *Devil of Clubs*, either in his con-
 versation or his letters, I knew he
 was in good humour; and, therefore,
 I went to my father’s house with
 greater pleasure.

C H A P. LVII.

Prove with Child by Mr. Walsingham, for the first Time in my Life—Receive a Letter, which appeared to come from Mrs. Walsingham, upon the Nature of my Situation, guarding me against Mr. Walsingham—Miscarry of a fine Boy in Consequence of Mr. Walsingham's being ordered out to the West-Indies—Many Letters that passed.

AT this time I found myself far gone with child, and was very ill in consequence of my situation: Indeed I was seized in such a violent manner one Sunday at the *Asylum-Chapel*, that I was thought for some little time to be in danger of my life.

life. When I was got a little better, Mr. *Walsingham* sent a person to desire I would meet him in a coach the following day, at twelve o'clock, in *Mount-Street*, when I had the pleasure of seeing him, and giving a particular account of the circumstances in which I found myself.

Never was a man of title, great estate, and family pride, more delighted at the birth of an heir than Mr. *Walsingham* appeared to be at the account I now gave him;—but, as if suddenly recollecting himself, he took me by the hand, and asked me, in the most serious manner, if I believed the child to be his?—My answer was, that I was well aware of the nature of an oath, and that, if it would give him the least

fatisfaction, I was ready to declare, in the most solemn manner, that I had been faithful to him ever since our meeting at *Portsmouth*.

“Well then” said he, “my dear

“girl, take care of yourself—I shall

“not go out to sea till the spring,

“and then only into the channel,

“and when I return I shall go to sea

“no more. You shall want for no-

“thing, and, when the young one

“comes, we shall be as happy as

“the day is long.” He then gave

me a bank-note for fifty pounds, and

said he would again endeavour to see

me soon; and complained that, ill

as he was, he was daily harassed by

his official attendancies at the Ad-

miralty.

After

After some time we used to meet almost every day in a hackney-coach ; and, as his time of going to sea approached, I pressed him continually to let me go to sea, arrayed as his cabin-boy ; and most willingly would I have accompanied him in the most servile capacity ;—but he declared, that however his own inclinations might urge him to wish such an arrangement, he knew it to be impracticable,—more particularly, as several young men of quality were to go out with him, and who would live constantly in his cabin : In short, though I continued to urge, and often times with tears, the possibility of being on board his ship, without being discovered, he would never consent to my proposal, but always assured me, that he should re-
turn

turn in a very short time ; and would let me hear from him every week : Still, however, my mind brooded over this project ; and I believe, nay, I know that I should have made an attempt to carry it into execution, if my purpose had not been checked by the following anonymous letter, which I received at this time :—But who was the writer of it, if it was not Mr. *Walsingham* himself, or, at least, some one by his desire, I have not been able to form the most distant conjecture, as I could not conceive that it was possible for his lady to be acquainted with my wishes or designs on the subject.

“ Madam,

“ I do not mean, believe me, to
“ write any thing that may be con-
“ sidered as reflections upon your
“ situa-

“ situation on life. The arts, of
 “ others, and misfortunes of your
 “ own, may have combined to tempt
 “ and seduce you from the rigid
 “ paths of virtue.—I am too sensible
 “ of the weakness of my own sex,
 “ and too well acquainted with the
 “ insinuating, and, in some cir-
 “ cumstances, the irresistible power
 “ of the other, to suppose that every
 “ woman who has swerved from
 “ the line of chastity is to be the
 “ object of contempt or abhorrence.
 “ I have other and better feelings;
 “ and, as I think that compassion is
 “ due, in an eminent degree, to the
 “ female unfortunate, I flatter my-
 “ self that I have never ceased to in-
 “ dulse it on their subject.

“ Besides, Madam, as there are
 “ gradations in every character of
 “ which

“ which human nature is suscep-
“ tible, there must be degrees of
“ merit, even among those whom
“ the impulse of necessity, the cruel-
“ ty of parents, the duplicity of
“ lovers, or the violence of passion,
“ have forced to the melancholy,
“ miserable practice of prostitution.
“ There are women in this unhappy
“ predicament, who, amidst all the
“ disgrace of an unchaste life, have
“ more real virtue in their hearts
“ than many of those who rest their
“ honour upon the sanction of the
“ altar.—There are those, who, in
“ a character which is considered as
“ abandoned, have scruples and act
“ under their influence with a degree
“ of resolution that would do honour
“ to the most honourable situation.

“ I have

“I have heard it said, and I be-
 “lieve the report to be true, that
 “there are women, called women
 “of the town, whom nothing can
 “tempt to form connections with
 “married men, who, though they
 “themselves are treated as the out-
 “casts of society, possess a principle
 “of rectitude that will not suffer
 “them to infringe upon the matri-
 “monial happiness, by sowing the
 “seeds of discord in that union
 “which is so essential to the inte-
 “rests of society, and is sanctioned
 “by the laws of heaven,

“Though I am not a stranger to
 “the irregularities of your life, I am
 “disposed to believe, from an au-
 “thority which justifies my reli-
 “ance, that you possess, in your cool,
 “calm

“ calm moments, those better quali-
“ ties and principles which I have
“ described ; and I trust, that you
“ will exercise them in a manner
“ that will do you honour, and go
“ a great way towards redeeming
“ the errors you may have commit-
“ ted, and may still be obliged to
“ commit.

“ You know the influence you
“ have over a certain person, whom
“ I shall not name. You profess,
“ and perhaps possess a real affection
“ for him, which I must say that I
“ know he feels for you ;—nor shall I
“ err against truth, if I assert that this
“ attachment has been the cause of
“ much inconvenience and dishonour
“ to himself, as well as the source of
“ much

“ much disunion and some distraction
 “ in his family.

“ It has been whispered, that at
 “ this time he is frequent in his vi-
 “ sits to you, and that he has a de-
 “ sign in contemplation of taking
 “ you with him in the voyage for
 “ which he is now preparing. The
 “ principal object of this letter, there-
 “ fore, is, to warn you not to yield
 “ to such a proposal, if he should be
 “ so imprudent as to urge it to you.
 “ Such a circumstance would do him
 “ great injury, not only as a man, as
 “ an husband, and as a father, but al-
 “ so as an officer. It would create
 “ a story, that, in the present rage for
 “ every thing of private anecdote,
 “ would be spread through the town
 “ as a stigma upon his character,
 “ and

“ and a ridicule upon his family. If,
“ therefore, you have the regard
“ for him which you profess, you
“ will not think of engaging in a
“ scheme which will finally end
“ in your unhappiness, and must
“ disgrace the object of your re-
“ gard. As for his doing what may
“ be necessary to support you in any
“ decent way of life, that is his du-
“ ty, and I hope he will fulfil it.
“ But if you wish to consult his ho-
“ nour and happiness, you will do
“ well to have no further connection
“ with him, but such as may arise
“ from that claim of support, which,
“ I am ready to acknowledge you
“ have a right, a sad right, to make
“ upon him.

“ I have
but

“ I have done—and do not make
 “ any apology for the length of this
 “ letter, as your happiness is per-
 “ haps as much concerned in attend-
 “ ing to the dictates of it, as the
 “ writer may be interested in offer-
 “ ing them to your good sense and
 “ reflection.

“ I am, your friend,

“ As well as the friend of

“ MR. WALSINGHAM,

“ ———— ”

This letter had no trifling effect
 upon my mind, and it determined me
 to think no more of accompanying
 my friend. The first time, however,
 I saw him after the receipt of it, I
 showed it to him, when he read it
 with

with great attention, and, as he returned it to me, I saw a tear in his eye, which brought plenty of them into mine; but he never made a single observation upon the matter at that time, or when I saw him afterwards, which was not more than twice.

The day following he had appointed me to meet him, as usual, in a *hackney* coach in *Mount-street*, and I had not been there five minutes before I saw Mr. *Walsingham*, and a lady holding his arm, coming down the street. As he passed he made his usual signal that he saw me, but that he could not join me at that time; so, when he was gone, I discharged the coach, with an intent to walk home. But I had scarce got into the next street, when

when I met with Captain *Hewet*, who had been in the *East India Company's* service; and, after some little preliminary conversation, he asked me "when I had seen my friend Mr. *Walsingham*?" when I had replied to his question, he laughed, and said "I should not have him long, for that he was made a Commodore, and was going to the *West-Indies*, to re-inforce Admiral *Rodney*, where he would be stationed for three years."—"Good God! Captain *Hewet*," I exclaimed,— "what do you tell me?" "Indeed," replied he, "it is true, and his Squadron now lays at *Spithead*." "Then," said I, "it is all over with me," and instantly sunk into his arms. After recovering myself a little, I desired he would let me sit down

down upon the step of a door, and call a coach for me : a chair, however, passing by at that instant, he placed me in it, and I returned home more dead than alive. Nor had I been in the house an hour before I miscarried of a boy.

The next day I sent an express messenger to Mr. *Walsingham*, to inform him of all that had happened ; and in the evening he paid me a visit. Nothing could equal his tenderness on the occasion, and as he looked at the *child* which lay in a little box, he declared with tears in his eyes, that he would sooner have given a thousand pounds than that such an accident should have happened. But as the misfortune could not now be prevented, he entreated me to have patience,

tience, and sustain my spirits, for
 that he made no doubt but he should
 be shortly called home, and that in
 the mean time, I should hear from
 him every week. He then gave or-
 ders to the people of the house to
 take every possible care of me, and
 promised to see me again before his
 departure for *Portsmouth*. In a few
 days he was ordered to leave *London*,
 and the day before he took leave of
 the *Admiralty* he came to take leave
 of me; when, after giving me every
 consolation and assurance of affection
 which words could convey, he pre-
 sented me with two fifty pound notes,
 and thirty six guineas in cash, which
 he accompanied with a promise that
 he would send me regular remit-
 tances from the *West-Indies*. At the
 same time, he desired me not to think

of going down to *Portsmouth*, as his wife and many of his particular friends would be there, to see him set sail, and therefore my appearance would tend to encrease his distress, without producing any real satisfaction to myself.

As he left me, I fainted away,—and the people around me were of opinion that he was not in a situation very different from mine; for he quite staggered, they said, as he went out of the house. Indeed, my grief was so outrageous, that it seemed to be a kind of omen, that he would return to me no more.

The day following, Mr. *Walsingham* left town, and I remained where he left me, with a very sorrowful heart,

heart, and my only employment then, was to sit all day, and sometimes a part of the night, to watch a windmill, in order to know when the wind was fair, for the fleet to sail. Nor was it long before I saw by the position of the fans, that the gale was favourable; when I instantly ordered a post-chaise, and set off for *Portsmouth*, and arrived just time enough to see him going into his barge: as he quitted the shore he put his pocket-handkerchief to his face to let me know that he had seen me; though he then thought, perhaps as little as myself, that he should see me no more.

Alas! how have I since repented, that in spite of his remonstrances, and in defiance of the letter which

the reader has so lately seen, I had not contrived to get on board his ship in a sailor's disguise, and remained there unknown to him, 'till we were too far at sea to send me back again. I well know what my fate would then have been ; I should have shared *his* watery grave, and the waves of the ocean would have rolled over us both.—Thus many a bitter pang,—many a poignant heart-ach,—and many a frail hour would have been spared me and I should not at this per id have been impelled by necessity to relate the follies of my life.

CHAP.

C H A P. LVIII.

My Spirits much depressed at Mr. Walsingham's going to Sea—Resolved to follow him to the West Indies—Return to London, when the Riots commenced, which diverted me from my purpose—Visit the Camps in Hyde Park—Form an acquaintance with Captain Ruston—Laughable Anecdote of him—Receive the melancholy News of the Loss of Mr. Walsingham—The effect it had on me—Turn my Thoughts to a different Mode of Life.

I Remained some little time at *Portsmouth*, in hopes that an alteration of the wind, or some other accident might force the fleet back, and nothing would then have prevented me from getting on board the *Thunderer*.

But, that opportunity not occurring, I returned to town, with a determined resolution to take my passage on board the first vessel that sailed for the West-Indies.—But the riots in *London*, now began, and the circumstances of them which occasioned so much uneasiness and distress to many, formed a kind of relief to me.

However, I still remained in a very low spirited state, so that the people of the house where I lodged, persuaded me to go and see the camps which were then formed in different parts of the metropolis; and in *Hyde Park*, I met with a Captain *Ruston*, who was quartered at the *Asylum*. This gentleman paid his addresses to me without remission, and in rather a singular manner; for

for as he found I had money, and was in the prospect of a continual supply, he proposed that I should furnish a house, when he would do me the inexpressible friendship of living with me at my own expence. In short, he was so very generous in his offers, that I was determined to make him some return of a similar nature, the very first opportunity I possessed of doing it; and it was not long before a very unpleasant one occurred; and indeed, the only consolation I had under it was, that it gave me an opportunity of revenging myself on the mean and pitiful disposition of this brave Captain.

A child of the family where I lodged, coming at this time from school, I used to take her to sleep

with me; and I soon after found myself attacked by a kind of tormenting rash, which became so violent, that I applied to Mr. *Foster*, an eminent apothecary in the neighbourhood for relief. At first he thought my disorder was the small pox, and gave me medicines accordingly:—then it was the seven day pox, and then a fourteen day pox, and afterwards a twenty-one day pox.—At length, however, it turned out to be nothing more or less than a certain vulgar disorder, which, however, people of fashion sometimes contrive to get, called the *Itch*,—and in order to transfer this agreeable companion to Captain *Ruston*, I suffered him for once to approach nearer to me than ever he had done before.

This

This generous soldier was now to go into distant quarters, and could not help continuing his requisitions that I and my purse might accompany him. But such a disposition of my affairs, was not the design of that moment; and when he told me that if I would not go with him, the fife and drum would get him a wife in the first market-town the regiment was ordered to, —“ That may be,” said I; “ and the fiddle (meaning the “ *Scotch* fiddle) you will take with you, will add to the concert.” But, as I afterwards heard, for I saw him no more, it was some time before he felt the full force of my allusion.

But as he boasted that he should not be long without a wife, I might

equally vaunt that I need not have been long without an husband; for a Mr. *Craig*, a gentleman from *Limerick*, now added another name to my list of killed and wounded.—

He had, it seems been a brewer of eminence and had retired from business, and, except in the article of eating and drinking, (for he was an epicure of the first class,) possessed all the saving knowledge of sober, mercantile life. He used, however, to call upon me every day, and though I detested the sight of him, I thought that he might be somehow or other, made useful to my interest. But this expectation was soon at an end, for in one of his visits, as I was looking out of my window, a poor woman begged charity of me, and
my

my gentleman taking it into his head, without rhyme, reason, or right, that the beggar was waiting there under the pretence of giving me a letter, he seized me by the arm, pulled me violently from the window, and then went into the street to abuse the woman, which he did in the most gross and indecent manner; a mob, however, soon assembled about him, and taking the woman's part, pelted him with dirt and stones in such a manner as to force him back into the house, where he began to vent his ill-humour upon me; and to threaten that he would serve me as he once punished a woman he kept, for her impertinence, which was by breaking her arm.— This menace was nearly the cause of my breaking his neck! for I imme-

diately called the people of the house to assist me in turning him out of it, which we did with the greatest violence, and he was as severely handled as he well could be, without breaking his bones.

This little *fracas* kept him from me for some time, but just before Christmas he called upon me, to beg that I would permit him to give me a Christmas dinner, and as I had invited a few friends to dine with me on that day, I thought that I might as well tax *his* pocket on the occasion as my own; and as in the article of eating and drinking he was by no means parsimonious, we had a very plentiful entertainment, and passed a very merry day.

In

In about a fortnight he called up-
 on me again, and asked me with a
 very significant look, if I had heard
 the news? When on enquiring to
 what he alluded, he replied with a
 very malicious sneer, "that the
 "*Thunderer*, and the *Stirling Castle*
 "were both gone to the bottom, and
 "that Mr. *Walsingham*, to use a sea
 "phrase, was got into *David Jones's*
 "*Locker*."—"I wish," replied I,
 "that the earth had swallowed you
 "up, before you had come to tell me
 "the horrid story."—"Well," an-
 swered he, still sneering, "your
 "pride must come down now;"—
 "not to such a villain as you," I
 exclaimed; "and if you do not in-
 "stantly get out of the house, I
 "will send you as a messenger into
 "the other world, to let him know

— I

"I am coming after him;" and seizing a knife, I should most certainly have stabbed him to the heart, if he had not fled away.

To describe my situation is not in the capacity of my pen; and if I had not comforted myself with the hopes that the whole might be a fabrication of this rascal to torment and mortify me, it would have been impossible for me to have supported the shock which his cruel intelligence gave me. The next day, however, I called upon a lady of my acquaintance, to make enquiries concerning the news, when she told me that the public papers were full of it; but that she understood the report wanted official confirmation. That confirmation, however, I soon received from Captain

tain *Farmer*, who, meeting me at the gate of the *Admiralty*, where I was going to be satisfied of the truth, whatever it might be, informed me, with tears in his eyes,—and I am sure the information brought a flood of them into mine,—“that his and my
“ friend *Walsingham* was no more.” He spoke to me in a very friendly manner; but what were words!—and I returned home to suffer pangs that words could neither sooth or describe.

A violent intermitting fever ensued, and I was more than once given over by the gentlemen of the faculty who attended me;—indeed, it would have been a blessing to me if I had not disappointed their expectations, and had sunk into that lap
of

of earth which is the only final refuge from human calamity. For when I returned to health, I found myself deserted by every friend,—deprived for ever of him, who, while he had lived would have ensured to me a state of comfort,—and hastening to that of hopeless penury.

As for presenting myself again to the world, I could not do it; I really loved Mr. *Walsingham*, and his loss was too fresh in my mind, to seek relief even for my growing distress, by seeking the protection of another. But in my forlorn situation, something was to be done, or starving must follow. I determined, therefore, to apply to my needle for support, and exchange the miserable means of subsistence which I had hitherto

therto pursued for an honest and active industry. For this purpose I made application to a shop-keeper in the *Borough* to whom I had formerly been a very liberal customer, and he very readily undertook to give me as much work as would employ a dozen women if I could get them. I accordingly took a small house for the purpose, where I kept a considerable number of hands constantly at work, and acquired a very handsome livelihood. Thus occupied, and getting forward by a mode of industry that was attended with every comfortable reflection, I began to recover from the grief I had felt on the loss of Mr. *Walsingham*, and looked forward with infinite pleasure, to that point of independence which I hoped to possess by a
few

few years continuance in that scene of profitable labour in which I was now engaged.

But prosperity, though it was in an humble circle, began to recall former notions ; and my spirits, no longer oppressed by the more horrid evils of life, re-assumed their former empire. Indeed, I was encouraged to a renewal of my habitual unlucky tricks, by the lively spirit of my fore-woman, who loved mischief as well as myself ; and many a lively, though I may add innocent prank we played, for our amusement ; though I do not believe that any one suffered materially by our vivacity.

CHAP.

C H A P. LIII.

Give up my new industrious Mode of Life and return to my old Courses—Renew my acquaintance with Captain Sweedland—He is ordered to America, and I return to Lambeth—Again visit Portsmouth and the Camps in the neighbourhood—Several Anecdotes that occurred during my stay there—Form an acquaintance with a Mr. E—— there, and accompany him to Liverpool by Water—Overtaken by a Storm, and very near being lost.

DURING my abode at this little mansion of industry, I generally carried the work that was finished to my employer on a Saturday night ; and on one of these Saturday-nights I was followed into the shop
by

an elderly gentleman, who bought several little articles, and trifled away time 'till my business was finished, when he overtook me in the street, and desired permission to accompany me to my lodgings. As he possessed the manners and appearance of a gentleman, I accepted his offer, and when we were sitting together, he proposed to allow me two guineas a week if I would permit him to visit me ; this offer I accepted, and was really happier than in the days of my most active gaity.

But it was destined surely to be my lot, that nothing which promised stability, or propriety, should last with me. Here was I at this time, in a state of industrious exertion, not only supporting myself
in

comfort, but getting comparatively rich, and possessing what I never possessed before, the means of present and future subsistence, without depending upon the follies or vices of the world. Here, however, I was not suffered long to be ; for as one of my acquaintance, a Miss *James*, was coming to see me, a Mr. *Fawcett*, who was one of her acquaintance happened to meet her, and this gentleman was known to Mr. *Sweedland* ; so that the reader will easily discover how the latter gentleman, who had been for some time upon the hunt after me, found me out at last.

It cannot be supposed that on his visit to the whole-sale sempstress, whom he had remembered such a
fine

fine and fashionable figure, it was possible for him to refrain from jeer and jocularity. Indeed, he was very lively upon the subject of my *shop-shop*; and in some humours and at a certain time of the day, he would most assuredly have thrown my stock of bodies, sleeves and chitterlings out of the window.—But serious proposals soon succeeded riot and rattle; and once more, the miserable, tempting, delusive bait of a settlement was to plunge me into uncertainty and distress.—There was nothing, he said, that man could do, that he would not do for me, if I would quit my trade, and live once more with him.

To this proposition, though not without some reluctance and apprehension,

hension, I yielded my consent ; and once again set forward in the track of public life.—In consequence of this determination, I discharged all my work-women, sold my furniture, got rid of my house, and accompanied Mr. *Sweedland* to his apartments in *Well's-street, Oxford-road*. Here we remained for some time; and here I lived upon promises which were never fulfilled, and expectations as empty as the air ; for it was not long before Mr. *Sweedland* received orders from his uncle, Sir *Henry Clinton*, to join his regiment in *America* ; and this excellent friend, who had taken me from a comfortable subsistence by making *shirts*, now left me in a situation which promised nothing better than my being in a short time without a *shift* to my back.

I do

I do not know whether it has been so to others, but in my many seasons of doubt and distress, *Lambeth* has always proved an asylum to me; and I now proceeded again to take up my abode there. My old friend Mrs. *Leponear*, recommended me as a widow to a Mrs. *Henin*, in *Walcot-Place*, in whom I found a pleasing companion, and if I would have suffered her, she would have been a very sincere friend.

I had not been long in this situation before, in one of my walks, I was followed by a Mr. *Beach*, a person of considerable property, who lived in the neighbourhood;—and after introducing himself with the common chit-chat of such an accidental meeting as ours, he expressed
a very

a very anxious desire to be admitted to an acquaintance of familiarity and good understanding. But Mrs. *Hennin* was not of a nature sufficiently practicable to admit of his visits; so that in order to gratify his desire of being occasionally with me, he took an apartment in the same house. This part of our scheme was well managed, and something advantageous to me might have arisen from it, if our good landlady's scruples had not been in our way. For whether her suspicion was of a general nature, or arose from some handsome presents which I had received from Mr. *Beach*, I cannot tell; but the good woman employed her vigilance so effectually, as to render the principal design of his being her tenant, to all intents and purposes, abortive.

At this time Mrs. *Henin* was continually cautioning me against the arts of the other sex; and it was sometimes with the utmost difficulty that I could preserve a serious countenance, while she was informing me upon a subject with which I was so entirely unacquainted. But this good lady had taken an uncommon fancy to me, and wished to preserve me from falling a prey to the false and flattering tongues of men; and as she thought idleness was one of the greatest mischiefs of life, and a profitable profession one of the best securities against the temptations of it, she offered to teach me her business, which was that of a mantua maker, and in which she had acquired a very comfortable independence.

4

It

It might be thought, that after all the miserable experience of my variegated life, I should have been eager to embrace such an opportunity of securing myself from the future uncertainties of it; but there was an unhappy twist in my character, that would never suffer me to do any thing which was prudent or proper: nor, perhaps, will my whole life, which has been such a tissue of follies, afford a more striking example of my truant disposition, than that I should turn my back upon such a proposal, in order to pay a visit to *Portsmouth*, on the risk of the casual gain which the circumstance of a numerous fleet at *Spithead* might afford me. But so it was—I pretended to have received a letter from the wife of a lieutenant in the navy, who

was a relation, and wished me to remain with her during the absence of her husband. In consequence of this pretext, I packed up my clothes, took my leave of my good friend Mr. *Beach*, whom it was with difficulty I could prevent from accompanying me, and set off for *Portsmouth*.

On my arrival there, I found that I was a day after the fair, for the fleet had sailed the day before;—but meeting accidentally with a Miss *Lyttleton*, whom I formerly knew when she lived with a Lord of that title, so well known in the gay, the gambling, and political world, she very obligingly invited me to her lodgings, and proposed my accompanying her to pay a visit to the camp in the neighbourhood. In the course
of

of a day or two we set out on our expedition, and in our way thither I met an old friend, who had a small pleasant house in the neighbourhood of this seat of war; to which he, of course, invited me, and whose invitation I accepted.

In this position I was not without collecting a considerable corps of admirers from the gentry of the cockade. A Mr. *Robin*, whom I called *Old Robin*, was the first upon my list; but though he was very fond, he had not the means of making me faithful; so I left him for a Captain *Gally*; but I soon grew jealous of him, for he was fonder of the brandy bottle than he was of me. Several others made their pretensions to my

I 3

good

good graces ; but the camp was poor, and, except Colonel *Hay* and Major *Pelham*, there was not a man in it whose tent possessed a temptation.

This being the case, I determined to attach myself closely and solely to my obliging host, Mr. *E——*, and as his house was pleasant as to its situation, and warm as to its hospitalities, I became very contented in the being mistress of its keys and of its contents. Here I remained some time, in the enjoyment of martial fights and rural amusements, till my friend was obliged to make an excursion to the west of *England*. We accordingly set off for *Exeter*, and from thence proceeded to *Plymouth*. Here we took our passage for *Liverpool*, where Mr. *E——* had business of

of consequence ; but the winds and the waves paid very little attention to his concerns ; for, after a very narrow escape from the rocks of *Scilly*, we were driven by a most violent gale into *Waterford* in *Ireland*. Here we remained about a fortnight, in anxious attendance upon a favourable gale, and we put to sea once more, to encounter another tempest ; which, after blowing us about, and threatening us day after day with destruction, drove us away from our destined port. Indeed, we thought ourselves happy in being able to make *Milford Haven* ; and we had not been an hour on shore, when the vessel went to the bottom ; so that I narrowly escaped the fate of my ever to be lamented friend, *Commodore Walsingham*.

We now proceeded on our journey to *Lancashire* by land; and so bad were the roads, and so many difficulties and dangers occurred from bad weather, cross country ways, and rickety vehicles, that I thought it was my destiny to perish in the course of this journey. However, at length we arrived safe at *Liverpool*, and Mr. E—— having an opportunity of going from thence to the *West Indies*, gave up his intention of returning to *London*; and, making me a very handsome present, put me into the stage-coach, which brought me once more to the metropolis.

CHAP.

C H A P. LX.

Return again to Lambeth—Enter into the Services of Lord Grosvenor—Take an House in Lambeth Marsh as a Seraglio for his Lordship, and stock it with a curious Collection of Ladies, suitable to his Lordship's taste—Account of his various Amours, which will give the Reader a trait of his Lordship's elegant Manners, and general Character; and afford ample Scope for serious Reflection to the virtuous Mind.

I No sooner arrived in *London*, than I paid a visit to my friend Mrs. *Leponear*, who received me with great kindness, and advised me to take an house in her neighbourhood, and let it out in lodgings. This project I immediately attempted, but

without success ; for there were but one kind of lodgings, or rather of lodgers, which I was calculated to superintend, and I was not in a sufficient plight to undertake such a plan in the style which would alone promise advantage. I removed, therefore, into town, and applied to Lord *Grosvenor*, not only for pecuniary assistance, but sage advice ; and to do him justice, at that time he gave me both. In short, he proposed to set me up in some way of business, which would give me a general communication with women, and by that means enable me to furnish his passion with occasional novelty. As that faculty, however, was possessed by me without the aid of any exterior profession, I immediately entered into his Lordship's service ; but as his frequent
visits

visits gave the people with whom I lived, occasion to suspect my calling, and his Lordship's practices, I returned again by his desire to *Lambeth*, and took a house in the *Marsh*, where a hundred thousand lords and commoners might have come daily and nightly, without notice or observation.

With such a master as I had in the noble lord, and such a professional activity as there was in myself, it was not long before my house was as well stocked, both for number and variety, as even his lordship could wish for:—for the garret was inhabited by *pea-pickers*,—the first floor by a woman of elegance,—the parlour by women servants,—and the kitchen by a Negro wench.—But

even Lord *Grosvenor* might be satiated, and my seraglio no longer afford him any pleasure. The truth was, that he had seen a person whose charms had won his attention and desire from every other woman, and I was sent for to *Grosvenor-Square*, in order to trace her out. The girl, it seems, had lived with Mrs. *Wright*, the celebrated artist, in *Cockspur-Street*; and to this lady I addressed myself to be informed concerning her. —“ O, the huffey !” answered Mrs. *Wright*, “ she has been gone away this fortnight ; and look, I pray you, here, Madam,” said she, taking me into the room where her wax-figures were placed ;—“ see, Madam, I beg you,” continued she,—“ she has robbed this lady of her cap, and that lady of her cardinal, —“ stripped

“ stripped Lord *North* of his blue
 “ ribbon, and Lord *Chatham* of his
 “ tye-wig ;”—so that, together with
 a disposition to intrigue, you may
 imagine she was not a person to be
 employed by me. — Mrs. *Wright*
 would have engaged me in conver-
 sation about politics and the Ameri-
 can war; but, as I had business of a
 very different nature, I took my
 leave, and returned to acquaint Lord
Grosvenor of the event of my expe-
 dition.

This, however, did not satisfy
 him, and half *London* did I hunt
 over, in order to make a discovery of
 Miss; but she was not to be disco-
 vered: I had, indeed, once got upon
 the scent of her, which led me to a
 washer-woman, in a filthy ally,
 and

and there I lost it. It appeared, that she was gone into the country, or rather had quitted it—thus so keen a sportman as Lord *Grosvenor*, and such a well bred terrier as myself, were baffled by her.

But new game was started, and his lordship had discovered and learned the address of two new beauties, whom he had met on *Westminster-Bridge*.—To these lovely objects of his anxious passion we were to pay a visit—and, in what may be called a blind alley, in a dirty part of *Westminster*, we found these amiable personages. Their dress,—if dress it could be called,—was a glaring display of patch work; and, in the true spirit of coquetry, as they had handsome legs and pretty feet, they did

did not chuse to hide them with shoes and stockings ; in their hands they bore a few glittering hat-pins, which seemed to be intended rather as a cloke to begging, than a means of livelihood ; an old woman at her washing tub, and a soldier asleep on the floor, with a firelock by his side, completed the groupe. After a little conversation, we partook of a pot of porter with these elegant people, and then took our leave, though both his lordship and myself found that we had been gainers by the visit ; for I carried home thousands upon me, and, I believe, the gallant peer was as well attended to his hotel in *Grosvenor-Square*, as I was to my cottage at *Lambeth*.

Still

Still, however, his lordship was hankering after these two little miserable doxies; and I had another meeting with them by his desire, but in the open air, when I soon discovered that they were every thing but what his Lordship wished them to be.

I had now another agreeable embassy, which was to go to an house near *Coventry-street*, and entertain two ladies, the one *coal black*, and the other *Mulatto brown*, whom his Lordship had appointed to meet him at a certain hour; and as he could not be there at the time he had mentioned, he desired me to go in order to keep them in good humour till he could get rid of his business, and come to the *African rendezvous*.

I went

I went to pay this visit with all the conscious superiority which a fair skin gave me over a footy complexion; but I found myself most wonderfully mistaken; for in all my conversation with the vain and the foolish of my own sex, I never found any whose airs were so numerous, and whose impertinence was so offensive, as these sable daughters of pleasure. They did not understand that any man, be he noble or otherwise, should dare to make them wait;—and when I offered, by way of soothing their impatience, to regale them with whatever the house afforded, they treated my offer with contempt, and myself with no great civility.

At length, however, his Lordship arrived, and went up stairs, where
they

had not been long before I overheard very high words between the parties, which soon ended in Lord G—— coming down stairs, as if he apprehended something disagreeable might overtake him;—and beckoning me as he passed, I did not hesitate to exercise all my expedition in following him; but we had no opportunity of speaking together till we got to the *Mews*, where he seemed horribly ashamed of his assignation with people, as he said, whose manners were as black as themselves.

How this fit of momentary delicacy came across his Lordship, I cannot tell; for he certainly was not in the habit of feeling compunction at the very low career of his amours. Nay, the very next day he sent to desire, that I would collect a group of *pea-pickers*

pickers for his choice, and my garrets were instantly furnished with a tribe of them for the noble Lord's inspection. But when he arrived in order to throw his handkerchief, he met a genteel young woman at my door, and I was instantly desired to detain her.

This person was very well educated, and in every respect but one, highly qualified to be the companion of more elevated sentiments, and more polished manners, than the nobleman who now solicited her regard. The defect was of no ill consequence; indeed, it sometimes served for their amusement, but it had been, at other times, extremely obnoxious to herself. This was nothing more or less, than an habit of telling the
most

most extraordinary and unmeaning lies that can be conceived.

Knowing her failing, and thinking that her connection with Lord *Grosvenor* might be serviceable to her, I called her aside, and entreated her, for her own sake, to be cautious in her conversation with him; but the father of lies had touched her lips—and in the first ten minutes, she informed her noble admirer that she once had a dog, who, whenever she was poor, used to go out, and bring her home constantly an half-crown-piece in his mouth. Lord *Grosvenor* began to open his eyes a little at this story; but when she added, that her father also had a white ass whose tail trailed a yard upon the ground, I thought he,—not meaning the ass,—
but

but his Lordship,—would never have shut his mouth from laughing.—However, he took her home with him in his coach, and I saw him no more till she had mounted her father's white jack-ass, or some other, and was gone off—and I believe the noble Lord has never seen her since.

Indeed, after this period, I received very few visits from his Lordship—nor did he ever fulfil any of his promises to me. After all the trouble he had given, his memory failed him in the rewards that he had declared should follow it; but made good the words of poor Mr. *Walsingham*, who used to observe, that his generosity was by no means brilliant; and Lord *Bateman*, for once in his life,

life, advised me well, in recommending me to have nothing to do with *Grosvenor*. “Nobody will tempt you, said he, with such fine promises, and no one will be so backward in performing them. He will bid you, continued he, to hire an house, and it shall be furnished at his expence without delay; but no sooner is the house got, than he will refuse to put a scraper at the door,—to give you a rush-bottom chair to sit on,—or even to purchase a penny-worth of sand to strew in your passage.”

Being thus forsaken, I took in lodgers and boarders,—but I found that lodging and boarding such people as I had to do with, would soon convey me to a lodging where I should have no boarding, I determined

mined to apply to Lord *Bateman* to give me some assistance. I rather conceived that I had some claim upon that nobleman; for though I am ready to acknowledge his former bounty to me, yet still he was the cause of my neglecting those who would have provided for me, and it was in consequence of his promises that I turned my back upon more than one settlement for life.

I therefore waited upon him with some confidence in his justice and former partiality for me; but after receiving me with great apparent satisfaction, and rejoicing that I was still alive—for he had been informed, as he said, that I had long been dead,—he began to wonder that I who had received so much money from him,

him, should now present myself to ask for more.—However, said he, I will call upon you one of these days, —and holding a guinea between his thumb and finger, he added, I might take that if I pleased, but if I was above it, he would return the coin into his pocket. However, I thought that was better than nothing, and took it as the last, of at least five thousand that I had at different times received from him. As for his calling upon me, I well knew that he never intended to do it; and returned home ruminating on the girl's story, the white jack-ass with its long tail,—convinced that there were Lords in this great town who had as few scruples about lying as herself.

I now

I now too plainly discovered what I ought to have known long before, that my old friends had all abandoned me ; and I was therefore obliged to keep body and soul together, and it would scarce do that, by continuing to make the most of my house ; and by living upon nothing, being my own servant, scrubbing my own floor, and washing down my own stairs—I did contrive to exist ; but even that existence began now to be diminished, from a severe illness which threatened the life of my father, by affording him every assistance in my power during his illness, with all the means that might alleviate and finally subdue it. But a more potent physician than myself cured all his pains at once—and the seeing him decently placed in the

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house

house which nature has provided for her children, bore away some of my best cloaths to the pawnbroker, and some of my best furniture to the upholsterer. But my heart was not so callous as to be insensible to the difference between misfortune arising from folly, and misfortune proceeding from duty.—Nor am I so destitute of serious reflection as not to feel an infinite satisfaction at the performance of this last act of filial regard ;—I feel it as a support,—as possessing a kind of redeeming power, and, in many a moment of dejection and distress, I have looked towards it, and received consolation.

CHAP.

CHAP. LVI.

A Remarkable Circumstance of a Lady who took Lodgings of me—the extraordinary Manner of her quitting them, leaving a Manuscript Fragment, which is supposed to be a Sketch of the History of her own Life; and being thought worthy the Public Eye, is here introduced—The conclusion of the Work.

AT this time, I remember it was on a Sunday morning, that a very well looking woman, very fashionably dressed, came to my door in an hackney coach with a small portmanteau, and enquired if she could

have an apartment in my house,—as she was in extreme good feather, and had all the appearance of plenty, I did not hesitate to receive her. She agreed to give me three guineas a week for my first floor, and to be served with breakfast, dinner and tea; and paying me as she did, for a fortnight in advance, she was a very welcome visitant.

During her stay, which was only ten days, she never went out of doors, nor scarce ever quitted her room; and though when I waited upon her in the morning to know her commands, she had always something good-humoured and cheerful to say to me, she never asked me to come and sit with her, and gave constant orders if any one should enquire after her,

her, that she should be denied. Though she saw no one, and lived the life of a recluse, she was every morning at her toilette for at least a couple of hours, and was as well dressed every day as if she was to appear in the first circles of fashionable life.

She was certainly a woman of education, her manners and conversation both announced it; and the reader will, I believe, be of the same opinion, when he has perused the following pages of this volume, in which her history is written. I make no pretence to literature myself, or to judge of it in others; but I believe her to have been no uncommon adept in the different branches of it.—She certainly read the

French and *Italian* languages, from the manner of her singing, to which I used to listen with pleasure; she had been instructed, without doubt by the best masters, and the knowledge of her own language, with the application of it to the purposes of domestic history, has been acknowledged by those to whom I have shewn her manuscripts, to be of a superior nature.

Who she was, or with whom connected,—what was the history of her life, any further than her own writing relates, which may not, after all, be an account of herself, what has since been become of her, I know no more than what I have here communicated; nor am I better qualified than another to
form

form a judgment of her mysterious life.

She, one morning, after having been with me ten days, ordered an hackney coach to be called, and took her portmanteau with her, but gave me every reason to expect her return in the evening ; however, instead of the lady I received the following note by the penny-post.

Wednesday-noon.

“ Madam,

“ It was my intention to
 “ have returned to you this evening,
 “ but my life is not governed by
 “ common circumstances ; and some
 “ of them have occurred, which
 “ will prevent my revisiting your
 K 4 “ house,

“ house, or perhaps, ever seeing
“ you again. I therefore, inform
“ you, that the apartment I lately
“ occupied, is free for a new tenant ;
“ and with my sincere thanks to you
“ for your obliging attentions while
“ I was beneath your roof, as well
“ as with my best wishes for your
“ prosperity, I conclude myself,

“ Your most humble servant,

“ A. B——.

“ There are a few books, &c. which
“ I believe are scattered about
“ the room; not being very anx-
“ ious about them, I shall leave
“ them to any purpose to which
“ you may think proper to apply
“ them.”

These

These books consisted of a volume of *Blair's* Sermons, and half a dozen *French* and *Italian* authors; — but among them, there was a manuscript, written in rather a careless but very intelligible manner. My curiosity naturally led me to examine the sheets which composed it; and it is not only my own opinion, but that of many others, some of whom possess names that would almost command submission to their judgment, that as far as it goes, this Manuscript is an history of this lady's life; and as the circumstance of its coming into my possession, is a singular part of mine; — I shall not hesitate to add it to this work, of which, I am afraid, it will form the most interesting part. It consists rather of detached parts and flights of relation

and sentiment, than of a regular successive story; and as it is written, so it is printed; and its peculiarities are as correctly represented as the language of which it is composed.

The Manuscript.

“ The tissue of my life was wove in a loom which never produced one of a similar pattern and texture. I have never known the pressures of penury, or the debility of disease; but nevertheless, I have been the slave of wayward fortune, hurried away by the gusts of passion, heated by desires, and chilled by disappointment.

“ No one ever felt more severely than myself the passion of love, nor
I the

the rage of jealousy.—I have not stabbed a rival to the heart, but I have done worse, — I have planted sorrow there,—and watered the soil with the tears of hypocritic friendship,—that it might grow, flourish, and torture.

“ In short, what have I not done? that love could do; what have I left undone, that revenge could perform?

“ But I have had a tear for affliction, and a sigh for anguish, and relief for the distressed; for while the curse was ever ready for the object of my hate,—blessings were ready to obey the summons of those I loved.

“ There

“ There was no medium in my nature.—Good and ill,—vice and virtue,—rage and gentleness,—folly and wisdom, were not mingled together in my character as they are in that of others, but possessed their distinct hours and positions. I was never in a compound state, I was either the worst, or the best in the world; and very frequently the same hour, saw me both the one and the other;—I was either a good or an evil spirit, and the predominance of events threw over me the raiment of a sable, or celestial colour.

“ I can scarce say that I was a daughter, for I never knew my father, the woman, who I believe

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brought

brought me into the world, never suffered me to call her mother.

“ I have been a wife,—gracious heaven!—that I must, in writing this history, pass through such a dark and dismal passage,—that I cannot in justice to truth and to myself, throw a veil over a scene of misery that scarce knows a parallel, and which, if I had not that pride of revenge which makes its votary, or I should rather say, its victim, superior to the ills of life, would not have left me strength to have given the pictures of it.

“ I have been a friend,—and here is another fatal story, for from that point of life’s compass which ought to bestow the balm for sorrow, and
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the anodyne for pain, I received a dagger,—and I never look to friendship, but the same vision beckons me, which called the Northern Thane to the fatal deed that sent Duncan to his grave.

“ I am, alas ! alas !—I am a mother : and if ever the moisture steals into my eye it is on that reflection. In the same hour I bore two lovely boys,—at the same moment the little cherubs have milked my breasts, and the two-fold rapture of a mother warmed my heart. They yet live, but know not to whom they owe their life or their allotment.

“ Of my birth I know nothing, and of my parentage I know but little, and that little from conjecture.

“ My

“ My memory serves me not to recollect any one but the lady who educated me, and though I am persuaded she was my mother, as well from her tender care of me, as the very striking resemblance I bore to her, yet for reasons, which I could never fathom, she would never suffer me to call her by that affectionate name, and while, she exercised all the duties, and practised all the kindness of a parent, she represented herself merely as the friend of an orphan whose mother was her darling friend, and of whose dying anxieties she had promised to supply her departing care to me. Sometimes she would hint that I was related to the highest rank in the kingdom, and little circumstances would continually escape her, which, when they were col-

collected together, convinced me that she believed I was an illegitimate relation of the royal family. She once, I remember said, when her sister, who came occasionally to visit her, was admiring my auburn locks, “ I wish her hair had been flaxen, “ and her eye-brows white, and “ then they, perhaps, would be “ made to believe the truth, which “ they now pretend to doubt.”

“ These, and a variety of similar observations, I used occasionally to hear, without applying them to any purpose of information; but from circumstances which have since happened, and instruction which I have since received, I have every reason to believe that I am related in a certain kind of collateral degree to the Royal Family, nay, that I am the natural

ral daughter of the late Duke of York, the brother of his present Majesty.

“ My education was of the best kind, nor was any expence spared to qualify me for appearing in the first circles of society. Languages, music, dancing, painting, and the lesser, but more useful accomplishments of needle-work, &c. were attained by me in an uncommon degree of perfection, at a very early period. They were intended to introduce me into some employment or station in the family to which I was a partial relation; and had my mother, for I will call her by that name, I say, had my mother lived, she intended to have accompanied me to *St. James's*, if no better means could have been adopted

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ed, and have presented a memorial to his Majesty, stating the circumstances of my birth, with the documents necessary to give them authenticity ; at the same time representing the attainments I possessed, and asking support and protection for me. But the time for putting this scheme in execution never arrived. My mother, for I will call her by that name, did not live to do that kindness for her child.

“ About a year before her death she took me to *Lisle*, in Flanders, in order to give a polish to some part of my education. Here we stayed some months, and then removed to St. Omer's. A young man of fashion, who was an officer in the regiment of _____, then in garrison at *Lisle*, happened

happened to lodge in the same house with us, and a general communication of civilities soon ripened into an intimacy, which produced a most ardent, but respectful passion, on his part, for me.

“As my views in life had been directed to an home settlement, and as my inclinations, some how or other, were not in train to be partial to a French lover, he received no encouragement from me ;—and my mother, who regarded me with a never ceasing vigilance, was continually encouraging my natural prejudices in favour of my native country.

“But he was stricken deep, and of an age when hope and fancy combine to cast down every obstacle between

tween us and the object of our happiness. He was the only son of a rich and noble family.—He had an uncle who was a Bishop, and an aunt who was the head of an Abbey. Nevertheless, he thought it not impossible that he should reconcile his family to a marriage with an English woman of no fortune, of uncertain birth, and of a religion averse to his own. This dream of a love-stricken fancy, he had communicated to my mother.—She combated it with all her power, and though she had prevented his making any declaration to me, she thought it right to quit a situation which might be attended with danger; and we therefore removed to St. Omer's, where we remained about three months, the last fortnight

night of which Monf. de ——— contrived to join us, and his arrival there hastened our return to England.

“ Monsieur de ——— was of a figure, manner, and mind to captivate any woman, and though his attentions had not made any sensible impresson on my heart while he was continually with us, I had not long been in my own country, before I began to feel that it looked for its most pleasig object of reflection to another.

“ On a comparifon with the very few men I now faw, Mr. de ——— always bore away the palm in my opinion ; and as my mind rather cherished the idea of his superiority,
that

that passion insensibly encreased, which has been since attended with such sad circumstances of affliction and calamity.

“ Here then I am, to commence the narration of that history which began in rapture—the rapture of one short year, and has ever since been discoloured with such a variety of melancholy events as have seldom combined to agitate and convulse the human heart.—How they have agitated, and how they have convulsed mine will be the business of the following pages to explain, if I should have resolution to travel over the path with my remembrance—the path in which foul fortune has led me.

“ The

“ The death of my mother was the first affliction I ever felt;—she expired in her chair—without explaining that part of my history which it certainly was her intention to have unfolded to me—without having a few minutes of sense and strength to instruct me in the future course of my life,—and without giving me a parting blessing to console me in a moment when I stood in so much need of consolation.

“ Her sister immediately took possession of her effects—gave the necessary orders for the conduct of her funeral, and transferred me to her care, which, without being such as I had any reason to disapprove, was not of the same kind as that which I had so lately experienced.—Indeed,
had

had I been formed as other young women were, I should have preferred my new to my former situation ; for I was now no longer hid from the world, and confined to continual instruction and improvement ; on the contrary, I was indulged with an entire liberty of conduct. My masters were all dismissed, for instead of gaining additional accomplishments, I was, it seems, to discover those I had to the world ; and I was soon hurried into as much of the bustle of it, as was suited to the circumstances of the lady who had now taken a guardianship over me.

“ But though the position of my life was changed, its mystery was not unveiled. My mother’s papers were never granted to my reiterated requests ;

requests; and whenever I asked for an explanation of my concealed history, I was recommended to patience and the course of events.

“ My present guardian did not wish, like her predecessor, to keep me back from inspection; and the public places were at this time very much frequented by us. I may now say, when my bloom is passed, and sorrow has planted its wrinkles on my countenance, that I was then possessed of attractive graces, and that, wherever I went, the eye of admiration was upon me. Enquiries were made concerning me, and those enquiries were encouraged where they ought to have been suppressed. However, I shall hasten to the period that snatched me from what I have since confi-

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dered

dered as a situation of danger, though I was then insensible to it. In the early part of the Vauxhall season, we met Monsieur *de* —, my French admirer, (for whom I have already mentioned a growing partiality,) at that place of public diversion. He did not hesitate to join our party, and soon had an opportunity to tell me that I was the object of his journey, and that there was no proof he was not ready to give me of the sincerity and honour of his passion.

“In short, he had permission to visit me—was encouraged in his attentions to me—and soon changed the principle impressions he had made upon my heart into a conquest of it. He won my consent to ask me in marriage, of the only person in the world

world who had any connections with me—and she was too forward to grant it.

“ In this situation I need not add, that we were married, and I was for a short period the happiest of human beings. In this imprudent act, Monsieur *de* —— was governed by the impetuosity of his passion ; and my inexperience was not corrected by the only person whose duty it was, as I now know, to watch over my well-being, but whose mind and interest led her to be intentionally careless of my honour and my happiness.

“ I had no doubt but that I should find protection and fondness from the relations of my husband—and I accompanied him to *France* with all

the delight that naturally waited upon such an expectation. But what will the future readers of my life imagine (if they have imagination sufficient,) were my feelings, when I found, after much evasion, and something like personal ill treatment from my husband, that the marriage, though solemnized according to the rites of the Church of *England*, was not considered as legal by the laws of *France*; and that I was not only refused a reception among my husband's relations, but was publicly declared by them to be no more than his concubine--while the child I bore in my womb was refused, by anticipation, to be acknowledged as a legitimate offspring. I had a tender heart—but I possessed also a haughty spirit—and the purposes which their combined

combined influence led me to execute, should be written in blood.

“ Another day must be charged with the sad task of telling that tale, which will melt the flinty bosom—check every impulse of joy—appall the good—and make credulity itself hesitate at belief.

“ Another day must be provided for this work——”

* * * * *

Here ends this manuscript—of which the reader is now as well qualified to judge as myself—and here also will end the career of my biography.

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CONCLUSION.

Since this period, my time has been passed in occupations which it would not be amusing for me to repeat; and in the experience of distress which, were I to make known, would not, I fear, find any great share of commiseration.

As for covering a score of pages with reflections on the feverish pleasures—the successive reverses, and the final scene of meretricious life—that, though an easy task, shall not be mine.

This history, however, is not destitute of instruction to my own, as well

well as to the other sex. It offers a profitable lesson to them both. After having dissipated upwards of forty thousand pounds, the mercenary reward of prostitution, I have experienced every mortification of neglect and contempt:—I have suffered the very severe pressures of varied adversity.—But I trust that my follies, which, in their acting, brought me to my present state of humility, will, by their history, which I now present to the public, in some measure relieve me from it.

F I N I S,



